



Houses and Buildings
of
Topsfield, Massachusetts

by
C. Lawrence Bond, A.B., S.B.

Published by
The Topsfield Historical Society
Topsfield, Massachusetts
1989

The Cover

The Parson Capen House
Original Painting by D.E. Leach
1988

**“Official Record” for the Boston Public Library’s
THS Digitization Project:**

Internet Archive

Title: Houses and Buildings of Topsfield, Massachusetts

Author: C. Lawrence Bond

Publisher: The Topsfield Historical Society

Date: 1989

Notes:

This book is the definitive history of Topsfield houses and buildings up to 1980 and includes houses built between 1900 and 1950.

The book is an update of a book published by the Topsfield Historical Society in 1992, of the same title by John H. Towne.

For more information about the Town of Topsfield’s history view www.TopsfieldHistory.org

Subjects / Topics:

- Topsfield (Mass.) – History
- Topsfield – Buildings, structures etc.
- Historic Buildings – Massachusetts





A portion of Main Street in 1900 and the same section in 1989.



Activities on the Common.

A ball game early in the twentieth century and the program observing the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution on September 27, 1987.

Houses and Buildings of Topsfield, Massachusetts

An up-date of
"The Houses and Buildings of
Topsfield, Massachusetts 1902"
by J. H. Towne

Charles Lawrence Bond, A.B., S.B.
in cooperation with the
Historical Records Committee
of the
Topsfield Historical Society

Charles Lawrence Bond

Published 1989
by
C. Lawrence Bond

Layout, Printing & Binding
by
Rowley Printing, Inc.
Rowley, Massachusetts
1989

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PREFACE

In 1902, the Topsfield Historical Society published "The Houses and Buildings of Topsfield", by John H. Towne. At that time families usually lived in their houses long enough for the properties to be recognized by their names, but with the present day tendency to move, it would be of little help to identify a house by the name of the 1980 occupants. Consequently, the houses are identified by Street and Number, and an index of names appears at the end of the book.

In general, Towne's information up to 1900 has been quoted without further review, and the data added brings it up to 1980. The houses built between 1900 and 1950 have been listed with comparatively little detail, as the Assessors' Office now has data and pictures of all houses and buildings. Subsequent to World War II, building was done, for the most part, in subdivisions, which may be dated by the age of the street. See Topsfield Historical Collections Volume XXXIII.

The photographs included in this publication fall into one of the following categories: 1) were included in the 1902 book; 2) are within the Historic District; 3) were built before 1800; 4) are buildings of note; or 5) have unusual characteristics. In addition, public buildings, schools and churches are shown.

For reference purposes the following abbreviations have been used:

H.	G.F. Dow's <u>History of Topsfield</u>
HC.	Topsfield Historical Collections
Vol.	Volume
Bk.,pg.	Book and page in Essex So. Dist. Registry of Deeds
JHT	John H. Towne

Street numbers: odd on the right, even on the left, going away from the village.

The definition of a house as 'one and a half stories' has been determined by whether the roof line falls below the top of the second story windows. A house is called two and one half if there is a full sized window in the gable. If not. it is termed two stories.

In 1982 the Publications Committee consisted of Lenn A. Bergsten, Ruth (Benton) Houston, Evelyn (Smerage) Fales, Jean (Leach) MacDougall, Dorothy Leach, and the author. Mr. Bergsten, a genealogist, and Mrs. Houston, long term resident of Topsfield and a news reporter, both died in 1987. J. Jan Jansen filled Mr. Bergsten's vacancy, and took charge of the photographs. Pamela (Stone) Johnson was added in 1987, and she volunteered to put the text into a computer and to add an index.

The Committee has been most helpful in preparation of the book. As a native of Topsfield, Mrs. Fales could check up on the author, a land surveyer and Consultant Engineer of Boston, who moved to Topsfield in 1933. Mrs. MacDougall, U.S. Postal service, retired, served the town for many years, and her sister, Dorothy Leach, served as an excellent coordinator.

The Historical Society has deemed it more appropriate to call our Committee the Historical Records Committee, with the author as Chairman. Undoubtedly the reader will find occasional errors. Please report them to the Society and an attempt will be made to affix an addenda to later copies.



The Congregational Church and St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church in 1989.



Trinity Episcopal Church and Our Savior Lutheran Church in 1989.



The Town Hall in 1900 and in 1989.



*The Elementary Schools of Topsfield.
The Proctor School and the Steward School.*



Masconomet Regional High School and the Topsfield Library.



The Topsfield Academy building at the end of School Street became the Center School in 1868. It stood there until 1935. The Topsfield Highway Department Building locates there presently.



The Topsfield Police Department and the Topsfield Fire Department buildings.



The Topsfield Post Office and the old service building in Pine Grove Cemetery.



Administration Buildings at the Topsfield Fair.



24 Asbury Street.



34 Asbury Street.



41 Asbury Street.

ALDERBROOK DRIVE

Laid out in 1965. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

ANDREWS ROAD

Laid out in 1956. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

ARROWHEAD ROAD

Laid out in 1955-56. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

ASBURY STREET

Formerly Asbury Grove Street

#24 ASBURY STREET

John H. Towne writes, "The middle portion of this two story house, originally one story, is over two hundred years old. It has been remodeled several times during the nineteenth century and several additions have been built. The eastern end was built for Capt. John Lamson in 1840 by Capt. Israel D. Elliott. A barn was built in 1893 by Albert H. Towne of Boxford." The property remained in the possession of the Lamson family from the late seventeenth century to the twentieth.

After the death of J. Arthur Lamson in 1909, it was purchased by Bradley W. Palmer, a prominent Boston Attorney. Mr. Palmer died in 1946 and all of the Lamson property southeast of Asbury St. and the Ipswich River became part of the Bradley Palmer State Park (Reg. of Deeds, Bk.3389 p.25, A.D.1944). His Superintendent, William Keith, lived out his retirement years in this house, dying at the age of 91 in 1965.

The house recently has been occupied by employees of the State Park.

#34 ASBURY STREET

This two story house with stable, was erected in 1902 as

the residence for Bradley W. Palmer. The stone work was done by Connolly Brothers of Beverly Farms, and the wood work by Herbert W. Porter, of Wenham. Together with the Lamson property it became a part of the State Park* in 1947, and served as a center for Civil Defense training.

#41 ASBURY STREET

This two story house was built in 1953-54 for Gilbert L. Steward, Jr., who served the town as Selectman from 1966 to 1971, after which he removed to Wenham, selling the house to Charles Cheston of Millis, Massachusetts, in 1972.

#51 ASBURY STREET

This two story house, together with a cottage, barn, and garage, was built for Gilbert L. Steward, Sr. in 1931. A graduate of Harvard 1921, he had three sons by his first wife, Anne Ayer, who died in 1947 in a fall with a horse. With his second wife, Victoria T. Coolidge of Hamilton, he is still occupying in 1983.

#72 ASBURY STREET

The house on this property, which is also part of the State Park, was built for Israel Wildes in 1875, and burned in 1969.

#83 ASBURY STREET

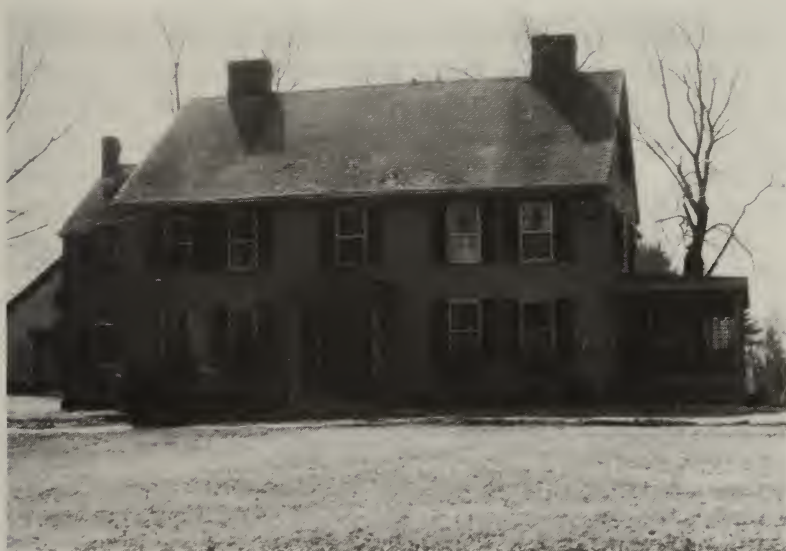
JHT writes, "This two story house, built for Capt. Joseph and Thomas Cummings in 1778-79, formerly stood very near the road, where it was occupied during the latter part of the nine-teenth century by Willard Smith, and later by his son, Augustus W. Smith. In 1899 the property was purchased by Daniel O. Earle, moved to its present location and extensively remodeled. A new barn and outbuildings were built the same year. The farm house was built in 1901."

A plan of the Earle Farm was made by Metcalf and Ashton, C.E., in 1903. In 1915, Gray et al. conveyed to Caroline H. Taintor, who was taxed for a dwelling house, a farm house, barn, poultry and ice houses, as well as a play

**The State Park comes under the Mass. Dept. of Natural Resources, and uses the house for its offices.*



51 Asbury Street.



83 Asbury Street.

house and hay barn in 1928. The barn does not appear in the 1935 tax list, but a large brick mansion called "dwelling, unfinished" was assessed for \$25,000. Built during World War I, it never was completed and was torn down in 1968.

The original houses passed from Taintor to a grandson, John Sullivan, son of Charlotte Taintor Sullivan, in 1978 (Bk.6531, p.394). Ellen Taintor married Yann de Perrefeu in July, 1930.

On the upland to the southwest there stood, as early as 1780, a small one story house, where afterward lived Jonas, the eldest son of Thomas Cummings. He died in 1804, and his widow sold the property to John and Reuben Smith in 1816. A description of the bounds of his farm is given in HC Vol.VII, p.67; of the house on p.68. The genealogy of the Isaac Cummings family is given in HC Vol.V, pp.1-39.

#123 ASBURY STREET

"The present two story house was built for Capt. William Cummings in 1823-24. The old one story house, which formerly stood a short distance northeast from the present house, was taken down in 1883. There are supposed to have been no less than six houses built on this farm at different times. The first one was located near the river and is said to have been destroyed by Indians. (Across the road) toward the south, stood, as late as 1830, a two story house then occupied by John McKenzie, father of Samuel S. McKenzie." (See Vol.V11,p.68 line 1, and p.67 line 18.)

Robert Foss, the owner at the time J.H. Towne wrote the above, placed a mortgage on the house in May, 1899, and sold to Alice Streeter in January, 1909. Edward Streeter, her husband, conveyed to Charles E. Merrill and he to George Burroughs in September, 1915. Burroughs held the property for four years and sold to Henry N. Berry in August, 1919. Berry sold to Anne D.H. Sanders in June, 1923, who held it for four years and sold to Gilbert Steward, August 16, 1927. Steward held and occupied the house until he built the one at #51 Asbury Street and sold #123 to Louis Agassiz Shaw in 1932. Shaw still occupies at this writing.

AUDUBON DRIVE

Accepted in 1965. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

AVERILL STREET

Formerly Ridge Road

#19 AVERILL STREET (See Map 1)

"This two story house was built by John Averill in 1730, and sold to John Wildes in March, 1738. His son, Ephraim, died in 1812, and left it to his wife, Lydia. Her heirs sold it to Samuel Bradstreet, October 28, 1833, and he conveyed it to Elisha Perkins, July, 1834. In October, 1870, Perkins heirs sold to John Perley, and on December 29, 1896, it passed to Edward E. Ferguson. In 1901, it had been unoccupied for several years and was in poor repair."

In 1919, Thomas E. Proctor had a shoe shop removed from #64 Perkins Row, attached to the house at #19 Averill Street and the house entirely renovated. When the Proctor Estate was broken up, Charlton P. Hall bought this house and lived there until 1963, when it passed to Robert Reymond of Saugus, who occupied it with his family for ten years.

When Reymond sold to Ed Quinn, the developer, the land was cut up into separate lots and the house sold to James McDowell, restaurant manager from Florida (Bk.6474, p.110). John and Lorraine McInnes of Lynnfield bought the property in 1979 and still occupy.

BARE HILL ROAD

Formerly West Street

#3 BARE HILL ROAD

This land had belonged to Isabel (Andrews) Ford since 1904, and the two story house was built by her son, Roy Ferguson Ford, in 1947. He died in 1972, and his wife, Edna (Peabody) Ford, died in 1975. Their daughter, Hilda, married Edward Q. Rouf of Boxford, and she continued to occupy the house as a widow in 1983.

#26 BARE HILL ROAD

This one story house was built for Parker Brown Perley, in 1868 by Jacob Foster. In 1901, a large addition was built for Arthur W. Phillips, by Porter Peabody of Boxford. Phillips died in 1906, and his heirs were assessed for it, together with a one half acre lot and 15 acres in pastures, in 1908. In 1912 Henry B. Williams, formerly of Lynn, had acquired the property, which he called Bare Hill Farm, and built on it, but whether this replaced the original house or was an addition, would require study of the type of construction.

Henry died in 1920, and the house appears to have gone to his daughter, Ida (Williams) Hodges. (see #118 Main St.) Ida predeceased her husband, Mark Hodges, who died in 1960, and the farm was bought by Normandy Real Estate Trust. The house on Bare Hill Road was rented until 1963, when the lot on which it stands was cut off from the Parsonage Lane subdivision and sold to the Randall Barbours.

#87 BARE HILL ROAD

Walter B. Savage and his wife, Florence, built and occupied this house since 1947. Their son, Tom, operates dog kennels.

All other houses on Bare Hill Road were built after 1951.

BIRCH LANE

Laid out in 1956. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

BLUEBERRY LANE

Laid out in 1975. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

BOARDMAN LANE

#22 BOARDMAN LANE

A two story house stood partly on this site before 1875.

Built in 1690 for Thomas Dorman, it was occupied for many years by the Smith family. Asahel Smith, the grandfather of Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, lived here until his removal to New Hampshire.*

The present house was built for Francis C. Frame in 1875 by Albert Chesley. He and his widow lived here until the 1920's. William Tupper and his wife, Mary, acquired the property in the 1930's, and she was assessed for it in 1944. After Mr. Tupper's death in 1947 the property was sold to Levi Wade (Bk.3650, pg.9) in 1949, and he still lives there with his wife, Dorothy.

The balance of the houses on Boardman Lane were built as part of the Green Acres development, laid out in 1951 by Richard W. Skeffington, Sr. The wells of the Topsfield Town Water Department, installed in 1949, are between Boardman Lane and Mile Brook.

An unusual feature of nature occurs a short distance westerly of this property where Pye Brook divides and forms Mile Brook and Howlett Brook. To maintain this feature the early mill owners agreed to set sills in the two brooks at the point of parting, so that each might get an equal share of the water coming down from the Pye Brook.

BOSTON STREET

Newburyport Turnpike

#33 BOSTON STREET

This house was moved from Locust Street, Danvers, Massachusetts when the dam was built for the Putnamville Reservoir, 1955. The Northern Construction Co. owned the house for some time before it was able to get electric service. The nearest connection would have been with Danvers, but that is a municipally operated system. Philip and Mary Riley occupied it from 1962 to 1969 when it was purchased by Frederic W. and Irma Ricciardelli of Saugus. In 1979 it was conveyed to Sandra and Juan Nagro of Pennsylvania; in November 20, 1980 to Sandra Nagro.

**Information given by JHT but rearranged by C. Lawrence Bond.*

#44 BOSTON STREET

On this property, acquired by the U.S. Government after World War II, formerly known as the Rea Farm, there was "a two story house built before 1798 when it was owned by Israel Rea. It was remodeled for Thomas W. Peirce, Jr. in 1900 by Henry H. Roberts." Peirce lived there until just before his second marriage in 1909, when it burned down. Not used as Nike Base now, but houses are rented to military service personnel.

Site of the ARCHELAUS TOWNE house is across the Turnpike from the entrance to the Nike site. While there is no record of the Rea Farm Road having been maintained by the Town of Topsfield, there is evidence on the ground of a way from the southerly end of McLeod Lane up the hill to the Rea Farm and across the Turnpike toward Rowley Bridge Road. The construction of the Turnpike in 1805 undoubtedly was the cause of the abandonment of this old road. The house, built about 1711 and occupied by Towne in 1800, was sold to the Emersons and removed in 1803 to a site on Hill Street. Demolished in 1857.

#111 BOSTON STREET

This two and one half story house was originally the farm house for the Peirce farm at #116 Boston Street, built for Col. Thomas W. Peirce after his purchase of the property in 1856; probably in 1870. Jacob Foster was the builder. A lithograph of the farm buildings appears in the 1884 County Atlas.

In 1935 it was conveyed by the Peirce family, together with all the land east of the Turnpike, to Hazen Richardson of Middleton, and in 1952 he sold to Rex LeParmentier of Danvers, Massachusetts. The barn, shown in the lithograph, is said to have been the largest in Essex County, with stanchions for one hundred cows. Hay wagons could enter the second floor, be unloaded into 20 foot high mows, and exit by a long ramp. In the early 1900's T.W. Peirce, Jr. added a silo and concrete manure pit, in which a wagon was left to be filled by buckets travelling on an overhead rail. In 1962 the barn was destroyed by fire shortly after the cattle had



116 Boston Street (Witch Hill).



Looking south on Boston Street. The farm buildings of the Thomas W. Peirce estate across the street from the Peirce home. (Taken from "Essex County Atlas" published by George Walker Co. in 1884.)

been removed. In 1965 Ernest and Anna Johnson bought the property.

#116 BOSTON STREET

John H. Towne writes, "A two story house was standing upon this location before 1798, from which, according to tradition, Mary Towne Estey, accused of witchcraft in 1692, was taken to Salem jail and afterwards tried and executed. Her son, Isaac, was living here at the time, while her husband and her family were living in a house located on property now of the Agricultural Farm". The latter is where the Essex County Cooperative Farming Association is located. In 1821 the Hon. Benjamin W. Crowninshield, Secretary of the Navy under Presidents Madison and Monroe, purchased the property and remodeled the 1798 house.

John W. Peirce supplies the following history of the property. In 1856 Col. Thomas W. Peirce of Dover, N.H. moved his shipping business to Boston, and is reported to have chosen Topsfield because he could get to town "on one change of horses". Perhaps "iron horses", as the Georgetown-Danvers Railroad started to operate in October, 1854, and connected with the Boston & Maine at Wakefield.

During the winter of 1872-73, while Peirce was in Europe, he had Jacob Foster add a third floor and a wing to the house, and Ernest Bowditch worked for several years on the landscaping. Thomas W. Peirce, Jr. had Pitman and Brown of Salem make major structural changes in the house in 1900. The east chimney was removed and another added, the stairway was altered to make it less steep, and partitions removed on the first floor. It has been assumed that the second floor must now be hung from the roof trusses installed in 1870.

Thomas Jr. died in 1923 and his widow, Gabrielle (Dexter), married Howard Brown. She died in 1941 and the Peirce family conveyed the house and 13 acres, March 7, 1947, to Dr. Benjamin Riggs, a noted psychiatrist. In 1950 the house came back into the Peirce family when Cornelia (Pentecost) Marean and her husband, Browning Marean (Selectman 1968-75), bought the property. The cupola and 1870 wing were removed, and during their occupancy they improved its general appearance. With Mr. Marean's passing in 1975, the

property was conveyed to Roy P. Cheever, formerly of Lynn.

The cottage, shown in the lithograph*, near the Turnpike entrance, was moved by Howard Brown to a point southwesterly of the Mansion where his three daughters by a previous marriage were ensconced; dubbed the 'Nunnery'. In the street listings it was shown as #114 Boston Street, until its second removal, in 1950, by John W. Peirce to #11 Garden Street. The water tower, supplied by a spring on the south side of the hill, was built in 1870, west of the mansion and was demolished in 1949.

**See picture of the house and buildings in the 1884 Atlas of Essex Co.*

NOTE: The Boston Street School originally stood some distance NW of the Turnpike and SW of Salem Road; a later building was nearer to the Turnpike. As JHT in HC Vol.III, p.5, and G.F. Dow in H p.301 go into lengthy detail on buildings which have long since been removed, descriptions have been omitted here.

(INTERSECTION WITH SALEM ROAD)

Site of the Toll House for the Turnpike. See HC Vol.VII, p.5.

#153 BOSTON STREET (See Map 2)

In 1910, James M. Marsh of the Goodwill Soap Co. had this house of two and one half stories built on the northerly crest of Pingrees Hill. It is hidden from the Turnpike by trees that have grown to considerable size during the intervening years, but there is an extensive view to the northeast from the house.

From Marion Marsh, the widow of James, the property passed in 1927 to Robert B. and Katherine Wright of Salem. In 1946 Katherine Wright sold to Helmut Kuchel, who made it his family's home for thirteen years until he sold it in 1959 to Carter H. and Sallie B. Harrison.

(INTERSECTION WITH SOUTH MAIN STREET)

#207 BOSTON STREET

Essex Agricultural Society, Topsfield Fairgrounds. Dr.



19 Averill Road.



153 Boston Street.

James G. Treadwell left his property in Trust to be used for agricultural purposes, but as noted in an article in Volume 18 of the Historical Collections, the Trustees did not know just what to do with it. Under the terms of his will, if it was not used for such purposes, the title was to go to the Mass. General Hospital. In 1922, Mass. General Hospital conveyed to the Essex Agricultural Society, which had built an exhibition hall on the area, east of the Turnpike, in 1921. After acquiring title the Society proceeded to build a barn, a dance hall, a barn for draft horses, a stable for race horses, a grand stand, 4-H building and the Coolidge building, donated by William A. Coolidge. Nancy Killam Begin, a Topsfield resident living at #199 Rowley Bridge Street, was elected the first woman President of the Essex County Agricultural Society and served from 1979 to 1980.

#210 BOSTON STREET

State Police Barracks. Built in 1934-35.

#216 BOSTON STREET

The Lower Cemetery. Accepted 1835, H.434.

#218 BOSTON STREET

This location, now combined with #16 Maple Street, was for many years the site of Doane's Cabins, in the charge of F. Sophia Wells, who occupied a one story house there. Carl Doane built the house and cabins during 1935-36. By 1985 they had been torn down.

#222 BOSTON STREET

Charles V. Jackman originally intended for Pemberton Road to extend to the Turnpike, but because of the brook crossing and marshy land, he gave up and sold a parcel facing on the Turnpike to J.J. Cass, and in 1948, Mary E. Jackman sold the balance of the land to J.T. Peabody (Bk.3458, p.323), and he to W. H. Gibney. The house, which was probably built about the same time as the garage at #224 Boston Street, was occupied by Cass until his death in 1945.

The house then passed from Gibney to Frank Rogers, to Arnold Jedrey (Bk.3920, p.329), to Martin Berkel within a

few years. The latter sold it to George A. Butler in 1957. He still occupies in 1983.

#224 BOSTON STREET

This building between School Brook and the former railroad track was built shortly after World War I by J.J. Cass and his brother Thomas. The latter was Water Commissioner for many years. The garage has been rented to a number of different mechanics and automotive equipment repair men, but is still owned by Tom Cass' widow, Alice (1983).

#228 BOSTON STREET

Former site, post World War II, of a restaurant called the Clipper Ship. With the opening of Route I-95, apparently business was not sufficient to keep it going, and the building was torn down.

#233 BOSTON STREET

On this property was a garage and restaurant run by Harris Perkins, before World War II. The old building was removed to Central Street. The new building is presently a garage and service station.

#234 BOSTON STREET

This site was originally occupied by the Woodbury Wood and Coal Company, which later sold fuel oil, and Bob Woodbury ran a gas station taken over by his son, Stephen.

(INTERSECTION WITH CENTRAL STREET)

#240 BOSTON STREET

Nangle's garage, built about 1920, by Harry Nangle. Present owners Leonard and Gloria Nangle of Boxford.

#243 BOSTON STREET

"This one story house was built for Benjamin F. Adams in 1843 by Dan Willey." The executor of Job Frame's Est. conveyed to Fred Williams, in 1923, and Williams to Mrs. A. Bentley Rodd on June 14, 1924. She lived there until 1961. Ronald and Karen Clewes occupied it from 1963 to 1980.

#244 BOSTON STREET

Was Police Barracks until 1934 (see #210 Boston Street). This house shows on a plan by T.A. Appleton in 1927, in the name of Nellie F. Nangle. It was purchased by Mary Culliton of Somerville, Mass. in July 1939. Mr. Culliton was a retired police officer. They occupied the house until 1969. Present owners are Leonard and Gloria Nangle.

(INTERSECTION WITH HIGH STREET)

#268 BOSTON STREET (see Map 3)

Fred F. Atwood, management consultant from Boxford, moved this house from across the Turnpike in 1969, together with a small building which he had made into a bungalow. Oliver Thayer had it built by Pitman and Brown of Salem in 1899-1900, and put in his wife's name. He worked for the Boston Transcript, and the story goes that he chose the site on the Turnpike because it was such a steep road that no motor cars would be passing it! He died in 1958, but his wife lived to see the day when traffic backed up for a mile from the High Street intersection. She removed at age 92 in 1964, and died about 4 years later, in Danvers. Atwood still occupied in 1983.

#279 BOSTON STREET

A brick mansion was built in 1903 by Marion Peirce who was being married to Capt. Ernest Harvey Pentecost, R.N.R. whom she had met on an Atlantic crossing. Her brother, J.W. Peirce, Jr., had been burned out of his home at the Rea Farm and wished to occupy Witch Hill, where she had been living. Capt. Pentecost survived his wife by over twenty years. Their daughter, Cornelia, married Browning Marean and they returned to Witch Hill, at #116 Boston Street.

Barrack Tor, as the Pentecost house was called, was sold to the R.C. Archbishop and became the home of the Sisters of St. Domonic (called Maryknoll) around 1960. The large number of persons occupying the house caused problems with the septic system, and the Sisters gave up the property in 1968. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts acquired the property in 1972 with a view to using it for the Youth Services

Department, but the Board of Health pointed out that the septic system had never been approved. A fire damaged the hall that had been used as a chapel, and the buildings were deteriorating in 1983. Completely torn down in 1984.

#286 BOSTON STREET

"Two story house, built for Benjamin Glazier in 1859 by Jacob Foster. He died in 1871 and his son, Benjamin P. Glazier, died in 1890. It then became the property of Arthur A. Clark, who had the house remodeled in 1892-93. A portion of what is now used as a garage was originally the East School House, which was built in 1784 on Perkins Row (Approx. #142). In 1847 it was sold to Daniel Willey, for \$22.75, who removed it to what is now High Street (near #96) for a carpenter shop. About 1860 it was sold to Glazier who moved it to its present location for a stable." The property actually was in his wife's name, Clarissa (Towne), and the name was more often spelled with an 's'.

A 1914 plan by H.E. Lake shows the property surveyed for Sarah Smith.

The 1928 Assessors booklet shows Towne Hill, 81 acres, assessed to T. E. Proctor. The house was occupied by various employees (Arthur Whyte was one).

The 1954-56 street listings show it occupied by H.C. Sherman, Bk.3871, pg.557.

The 1958-61 street listings show it occupied by Graham Nelson, Bk.4342,pg.47.

Robert A. and Elizabeth Wood purchased the property and moved from the village, December 28, 1961.

Currently, Mr. Wood is director of Civil Defense, Deputy Fire Chief, Director of Home Heating Assistance, and on the Planning Council for North Shore Health. Elizabeth Wood is a Branch Bank Manager.

At what would have been about #352 BOSTON STREET (near the foot of the Great Hill) formerly stood the old Meeting House Barn which, by tradition, was originally the 1663 Meeting House, built in what is now the Pine Grove Cemetery. Discontinued in March, 1703-04, when the Church on the Common was built, the town voted to sell it to Sergt. John Gould for \$5.00 in money, "he to have the glass".



286 Boston Street in 1900.



286 Boston Street in 1989.

(INTERSECTION WITH AVERILL STREET)

#362 BOSTON STREET (see Map 1)

"This one story house was built for Cyrus Peabody in 1845, by Thomas Peabody. It was remodeled for Benjamin C. Dodd in 1897 by Wm. Welch." Mr. Dodd died in 1905 and Thomas Proctor acquired the property for some of his employees. Paul D. Brooks, who worked in the Proctor greenhouse, was the longest tenant, and after Mr. Proctor's death Brooks bought it from the estate and lived there in retirement until 1975. Empty as of 1983.

About opposite this house near Averill Street, there once stood a house about which JHT writes, "Miss Hattie S. Porter, Boston St. This two story house was built for Col. John Wildes in 1808, by Amos Wildes. It was first occupied by John Peabody and afterwards, for several years, was used as a public house or tavern. Nehemiah Perkins also kept a grocery store for some time in the south-west room and basement. Between the years of 1830 and 1850, seven different ministers, appointed to the charge of the Methodist church, lived in this house, so that it was often called "the Parsonage". Samuel S. McKenzie taught a singing school here in 1848 and 1849, and Dea. Augustine S. Peabody, for many years a selectman, and for over forty years superintendent of the Sunday-school at the Congregational church, was born here March 8, 1811." JHT was writing the above in 1901.

(INTERSECTION WITH IPSWICH ROAD)

#367 BOSTON STREET (see Map 1)

Leased to Texaco for service station by Cyr Oil Corp. See #124 Ipswich Road, as the original house ante-dated the building of the Turnpike. (This area was called Shoemaker's Corner.)

#368 BOSTON STREET

JHT writes, "This one story house was built in 1849 by Constantine McKenzie. Before the house was quite finished, Mr. McKenzie and his brother, Alfred, started for the gold

fields in California, sailing from Boston, November 13, 1849. The house was first occupied by John S. Whipple, who carried on a butchering business until 1851. It was afterward occupied by Alfred P. Towne; Rev. Stephen G. Hiler, a Methodist minister; William Herrick, who finally lost his vessel and his life on the high seas."

Elmore Johnson owned the property at the time of his death in 1902, after which it was acquired by Thomas E. Proctor and the land behind it developed for a polo field. Proctor's employees, the Herbert K. Whittiers, lived there until 1951. Sold to Richard Skeffington, who leased the land to the Humble Oil Co. for a gas station.

#371 BOSTON STREET (see Map 1)

This house, built in 1886 by John H. Potter for John H. Towne as a carriage house, originally faced on Ipswich Road. In 1903 Serene J. Towne, a sister of John, sold to C. Harry Shoemaker (Bk.1707, pg.452). At the time of the remodeling the ceiling of the first floor was lowered about 20 inches. Proctor bought the property for the use of John McGregor, father of the present owner, John Quincy McGregor. For some 60 years the area was known as 'Shoemaker's Corner'.

#375-409 BOSTON STREET

These houses were built in 1956 by a developer, on a partition of land made by Osborn Palmer for Leslie and Rita Green.

About where #400 would be now, formerly stood the First Methodist Church. "The building was forty feet square and one story in height. For a picture, see HC Vol.III p.26. Timothy Monroe of Lynn was the contractor, and the frame was raised October 19, 1831; Dedication on December 28, 1831. In January, 1840, this building was moved by fifty yoke of oxen, to a new location on Main Street" at a point which would be about #112 under present numbering. When a new Methodist Church was built in 1853, facing the Common, the old building was sold to Isaiah M. Small, a carpenter, who had it removed to his place on Washington Street (now numbered #25) where it was used as a barn.

(INTERSECTION WITH CAMPMEETING ROAD)

#470 BOSTON STREET

This two story shingled house with one story ell toward the road and a shop set back on the lot was built in 1945 by James Tirrell, Jr., mechanic, foreman and manager through to retirement in 1983. He and his family have occupied for 38 years.

#478 BOSTON STREET

Our Savior Lutheran Church edifice was built in 1964; the Parsonage in 1967.

#488 BOSTON STREET

Not long after the completion of the Turnpike (1805) a building was moved from Newburyport and located here by Asa W. Wildes, who had it made into a dwelling house. In 1901 the house was in possession of Robert W. Halliday. Warren and George* Tilton bought the property before their marriages to two Frame sisters in November, 1905. There have been no major structural changes with the exception of some dormer windows which were added. (See #490 Boston Street and #109 North Street.)

**George Tilton was Selectman 1932-1958.*

#490 BOSTON STREET

This one story house was built in 1845 for Joseph W. Rust by Samuel Clark. Mr. Rust died in 1879 and presumably Robert Halliday acquired title when he bought the adjacent property at #488, as the Tilton Brothers owned the property jointly, Warren living at #488 until his death in 1944. George Tilton lived to be 90, a widower for two years and without children, so June Tilton, daughter of Warren, became heir to both houses. She lives, in 1983, at #488 and rents the one at #490.

(TOWN LINE)

#501 BOSTON STREET

The Topsfield-Ipswich Town Line crosses the Turnpike

at an angle, so this lot does not have any frontage in Topsfield, but the house, a one and a half story shingled building, was constructed far back on the lot to fall within Topsfield. Ray Callahan, the owner, worked in Prices's Garage, which was close to the road, and lived here until his death in 1958. His wife, Florence, and daughter, Joy, continued on until 1965, when they built #118 East Street, to which they removed. In 1978 the house was bought by Frank Iovanella (Bk.502, p.691) of Beverly. He occupied for 3 years and moved to North St.

BOXFORD ROAD

#11 BOXFORD ROAD (See Map 4)

This one story house, long known as "the Cooper Perkins place" is probably the William Iles house, built in Boxford in 1719 (see Perley's Dwellings of Boxford). It was moved from Boxford in 1820, and occupied by Henry Perkins, who was a cooper by trade. He died in 1879 and the property was still assessed to his estate in 1892. Frank Gilliland, of Nova Scotia, bought the property before the turn of the century and brought up his family there. He died in 1953 and his daughter sold to Anthony and Barbara Horn, of Manchester, in 1936. Anthony died in 1978. Barbara still occupies at this writing.

#17 BOXFORD ROAD (See Map 4)

"This one story house was built for George A. Frame (uncle to the Frame sisters, see #488 Boston Street) in 1897 by Henry H. Roberts." He lived until 1922, and his widow until 1932. Fred Dodson was assessed for it in 1908 but unlisted thereafter until 1949 when bought by Professor Walter James, father of Ruth English, who now owns it and rents.

Walter James, a Professor at M.I.T. retired here with his wife in 1953. They were the in-laws of Benjamin English, long term Planning Board member. Donald H. and Jeannet E. Skane, from Melrose, have rented the house since 1969.

#22 BOXFORD ROAD (See Map 4)

"This one story house was originally a shop on the Dea.



268 Boston Street.



11 Boxford Road.

Julius A. Palmer place in Boxford. In 1859-60 it was bought by Tobias D. Reed, who had it moved to this location and made into a dwelling house." Reed died in 1892 and George A. Frame bought and sold the property, about 1900, to Mrs. William H. Buttrick. She died in 1912, and on foreclosure the property went to Alexander MacMillan, of New York State, who lived there with his family until his death in 1944. Mrs. MacMillan survived him four years, and two sons continued to occupy the property until 1972. In 1978 it was acquired by Philip W. Lemire. Since 1960 the property has been partitioned, and all the remaining houses on the southwest side of the road have been built since that date.

#23 BOXFORD ROAD

This house was built for George A. Frame (uncle of the Frame sisters; see #488 Boston Street) by Henry Roberts, in 1897. In 1913 Greenwood sold to John W. Fuller and it has remained in the Fuller family up to the present, (1983).

BRADSTREET LANE

#17 BRADSTREET LANE

This two story house was built for Moses Bradstreet in 1875, by John H. Potter. An old two story house was taken down in April of that same year. The map of Topsfield made by Anderson in 1830, shows that house with the name William Bradstreet. As William was married in Topsfield in 1814, that would appear to be the approximate date of the original structure. Moses married Emily Allen Caldwell of Danvers, but they had no children. In 1898, Moses Bradstreet conveyed the property to David Pingree, and he to Ann (Pingree) Wheatland, mother of Richard Wheatland (1873-1944), whose wife was Mary Robinson. The latter sold to Wallace A. Chisholm in 1933. Chisholm was assessed for it in 1944. His death is not recorded here, but his wife, Edith (Chesley), was called a widow when she died in 1949. His son, William, lived here in 1956, at which time it was taken over and operated as a part of the Meredith Farm (see Cross Street). There were some 75 acres included with this property.

BRADY LANE

Laid out in 1971. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

BROOK ROAD

Laid out in 1952. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

BROOKSIDE ROAD

Laid out in 1972. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

CAMPMEETING ROAD

(including portion formerly East Street and Ipswich Road)

All houses numbered below #60 have been built since 1958.

#66 CAMPMEETING ROAD (see #25 East Street)

"This two story house was built for John Conant in 1835, by Capt. Israel D. Elliott; an old two story house which was located southeasterly, about one hundred feet distant, being taken down the same year. A barn standing on this property burned in 1870."

Mary T. Robinson was assessed for the house in 1892, and on through 1901. She owned land on both sides of Howlett Brook in the earlier year, but in 1908 she only held the quarter-acre on which the Schoolhouse stood. A plan drawn for John Lawrence in 1917, shows the schoolhouse lot, but does not indicate the owner. (see #72 Campmeeting Road, second paragraph.)

When the Lawrence estate was broken up #66 was sold to Donald Goodwin. In 1959 it stood in the name of Mrs. V. Goodwin, when it went through foreclosure (Bk.4626 p.253). David and Winifred Carter of Revere bought it in 1964 and occupy one apartment.

#72 CAMPMEETING ROAD

This one story house was built as a school house by Constantine McKenzie, in 1846, to replace the Old North School on Ipswich Road. JHT writes, "The Old North School House, originally listed as Ipswich Road, was the first school house in this neighborhood and was built in 1794, at an expense of £40. It was located on what is now Ipswich Street near the Corner of Perkins Street and in the field now owned by W. Donaldson. In 1846 it was sold to William Peabody for \$33.62 and removed to what is now the W. Donaldson Place, where it was used for many years as a shoe shop and is now (1901) a barn. Jacob Kimball, the celebrated teacher and composer of vocal music, taught a singing school in this school house in the winter of 1804-05. Humphrey Kneeland also taught several singing schools in this building, as did Samuel S. McKenzie who made his beginning as a singing-master in this school house January 18, 1839. He taught singing schools here during the winters of 1839, 1842, 1843 and 1844 — in all, 107 evenings."

Close examination of Towne's above statements will show that his notes all refer to the old North Schoolhouse; and not to the new 1846 one, which stood at #72; he gives no reference between 1846 and 1899. Perhaps Topsfield Academy had become the cultural center of the village.

In 1899, Miss Mary T. Robinson purchased the building, which had been discontinued as a school in 1896, and fitted it up for a place in which to live. She sold her rather extensive holdings to John S. Lawrence in 1905. (Miss Robinson was the daughter of Benjamin Robinson. (See #327 Perkins Row.) The farm she sold to J. S. Lawrence was not the one farmed by her father, but land she bought, after his death, from Maria Averill Hobbs. It would appear she acted as agent for Mr. Lawrence.

No sale of #72 has been recorded from Miss Robinson, but in 1923 William Hobart of Ipswich was assessed for it, and Miss Robinson removed to Ipswich.

In 1940 Caroline R. Horton sold to Ingeborg Johanson, (Bk.3215, p.157) who turned it over to Thomas Geary in 1948. James Morgan acquired it in 1951 (Bk.3852, p.429) and sold to Stanley Sylvanowicz, who lived there for 22 years, until 1975.

#76 CAMPMEETING ROAD (See Map 11)

This two story house has had many changes in its three quarters of a century life span. In 1905, John S. Lawrence acquired the old grist mill from Wellington Donaldson and, presumably the same year, the farm of Miss Mary T. Robinson, who retained the former North School House (#72 Campmeeting Road). In 1907 Lawrence undertook major reconstruction projects, remodeling the dwelling house, the grist mill, and a barn into a stable. In 1922 he made considerable additions to the house. The records indicate that he tore down two 'Perkins' houses the year he first built the mansion. (These two Perkins houses mentioned do not appear in J.H. Towne's articles on East and Ipswich Roads.) The 1922 construction may have been in anticipation of his entertaining the then Prince of Wales.

The 1944 valuation list shows Dora Pym as owner of the major portion of the Lawrence estate, including two houses, a bungalow, a foremen's dwelling house, a farm dwelling house, garage, cow barn and silo, poultry house and shed. Most of these can be accounted for at other addresses since the property was cut up by Arthur Pym. The ballroom, built by Lawrence, at the southerly end of the house, and a porch on the northerly end, were removed by Pym during his ownership, reducing the house to one that can be managed without live-in servants. Jonathan C. Peabody acquired the property in 1979, moving from Parsonage Lane.

**For an extended description of the old Howlett grist mill, owners and family relations, see HC Vol. III p.165.*

Somewhere near the driveway to #76 there formerly stood a house built in 1782 for David Hobbs by David Towne. In 1831 it was acquired by Cyrus Averill who died in 1900. Probably removed by J. Lawrence.

Further east, possibly about where #220 Ipswich Rd. stands, a two story house was built by Nathaniel Hood for his own occupancy, in 1746-47. See reference above to the Howlett grist mill.

CANDLEWOOD DRIVE

Laid out in 1962. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

CANTERBURY HILL

Laid out in 1952. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

CARRIAGE WAY

Laid out in 1965. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

CENTRAL STREET

#5 CENTRAL STREET

This small shop was built in 1978 on land set off from #13 Main Street for Rizza and Beacham, as an investment.

#6 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

The original buildings on this location were on a lot which extended to the corner of Main Street. Charles C. Brackett, in 1838, built a one story house and a two story barn and shop, all of which he sold to Andrew Gould in 1847. The barn was converted to a restaurant and store for several years. "The Fountain Lodge I.O.O.F. No. 170 was organized December 31, 1874 in a small hall on the second floor of this building. The Lodge moved to a new hall in the Bailey Block on November 11, 1875. A few years later the Topsfield Brass Band was organized and used this hall for its headquarters until its disbanding in 1900." Jacob J. Hardy occupied the lower floor for a harness shop at the time JHT was writing.

Andrew Gould had a daughter, Mary, who married Lucius Warren Nichols. She inherited the property and was assessed for it in 1908. Mary had a daughter, Martha (Mattie), who married William Pitman Gould (not the same line as her mother's) in 1882. The Goulds lived across Main Street (#16),

but Mattie was assessed for the Central Street property in 1923-29. She died in 1930.

In 1935 Theresa Marciano, widow of Carmine, was assessed for this Central Street property, as well as buildings on Main Street. The Brackett* one story house was picked up and moved to #6 Central Street. It is currently occupied by a grandson, David Marciano, and his wife, Margaret. The original barn and shop were torn down in the late 1930's.

In 1945, Theresa divided her holdings and #6 Central Street went to her son, Savino, who had been living in Beverly while the house was occupied by Peter Coppola, an uncle.

**Charles C. Brackett built a number of houses in Topsfield, but this one was for his own occupancy, located at what is now #17 Main Street.*

#7 CENTRAL STREET

A one story shop was built for Capt. William Munday about 1850 by John Potter. It was first used as a carriage house, and afterwards as a carpenter shop by George Towne, who occupied it until his death in 1882. He did not appear to have any issue, but J. P. Towne, probably a cousin, sold the shop to L. A. Bell in 1896. In 1905 it stood in the name of William S. Bell and in 1906 Henry F. Long, as guardian for J. Stanley Bell and Ella Bell, sold it to Charles V. Jackman, the owner of the adjacent parcel to the east. Jackman then sold in 1907 to John Gould. About 1915 a portion of the old shop was moved to Pemberton Road and became a part of the barn at #8 while the rest was demolished and a blacksmith shop erected. Rizza & Beacham bought the property in 1978.

NOTE: John R. Gould (1881-1974), formerly of Kingfield, Maine and not a direct descendant of the Topsfield Goulds, bought the blacksmith shop where he continued to work for 65 years. His wrist was so strong that in his eighties he could hold a sledge hammer at arms length and lower it onto his forehead without hurting himself. In 1912 Gould bought an additional parcel from Jackman, but the dimensions of the lot on the ground are greater than those given in the deed.

#8 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

Built in 1846 for Benjamin Adams by Constantine McKenzie. Mr. Adams was popularly known as "Little Ben" Adams, there being three Benjamin Adams living in the town at that time. Benjamin P. Adams, the store keeper and postmaster; Benjamin F. Adams who lived in what is now #218 Boston Street and was known as the "Superintendent", he having charge of the Topsfield Almshouse for several years; and lastly "Little Ben", who lived here on Central Street until his death in March 1849.

It was afterward occupied by Ariel H. Gould, William H. Munday and Richard Ward, all of them butchers; George A. Towne, carpenter and builder of several houses in town; Ira P. Long, blacksmith; and Job H. Frame. Frame's widow's estate was assessed for it in 1928. In her will in 1923, she left it to Hattie Watson, the mother of Calvin M. Watson. From 1945 to 1953 it was rented to Theodore Williams, after which Calvin occupied, until 1965, and Calvin, Jr. until 1966. Calvin, Sr. still owned in 1983.

#11 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

This one story brick faced concrete block structure was built by the New England Telephone Company in 1953 to house the automatic dial system, which replaced the telephone switchboard operators in the building at the corner of Park and Main Streets. A large barn stood on this site at the time John Gould acquired #7 Central Street.

#12 CENTRAL STREET

After the Fuller's acquisition of the house at #14 Central Street, a portion of the lot that lay within the Village Business Zone was set off and sold to W. C. Webb in 1979, and transferred that same year to the Wildcat Realty Trust, now Stevens Insurance. Before the separation from #14, it had been used as a store house for paints, and later it became an antique shop.

#14 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

"This one story house was built in 1848 by John H. Potter for his own occupancy, and was the first dwelling house

erected by that veteran carpenter. The shop located in the corner of the front lot, was originally the William Kimball blacksmith shop and stood on Main Street. When Kimball gave up the blacksmithing business to open a grocery store, he sold his shop to Henry Long about 1836." The shop was removed to land owned by William H. Herrick, south of the erstwhile railroad on South Main Street. Henry Long sold it to Constantine McKenzie, carpenter, who moved it to Central Street and conveyed it to Potter about the time he (McKenzie) left in 1849 for the gold fields of California. Potter died in 1901.

Mary E. Kimball conveyed the property without recorded measurements to Dr. Byron Sanborn, April 12, 1905, and he served as a practicing physician until his death in 1944. His widow continued to live there until 1960, and the house was then occupied for six years by Sumner Magee and his wife. The Timothy Fuller family acquired title in 1970. Tim's father, Harry, and sister, Natalie Comeau, still occupy at this writing (see #12 Central Street).

#15 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

Built by Ovide Bouchard about 1922 as a two-car garage. Renovated and used as a house in 1948. Partial lot purchased by the New England Telephone approximately 1953. The house was moved to 170 Haverhill Road in 1970.

#18 CENTRAL STREET

This one story house was built for William H. Kneeland in 1868 by John H. Potter. Kneeland died in 1912 and his widow three years later. In 1923 assessed to Nettie Hood; in 1935 to her son, Roy Hood, who sold to Helen (Walsh) Lewis. She rented it out and sold to Richard K. Griffin in 1946, when he placed a mortgage with First National Bank of Boston, and he sold to the present owners, James L. and Julia Clark, in April 1950.

#20 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

"This one story house was built for Elizabeth W. and Sarah J. Perley, daughters of Jesse, in 1852 by John H. Potter." In 1901 JHT gives it in the name of Isaac M. Woodbury,

but in the 1908 Valuation list it appears as heirs of Sarah K.*, former wife of Isaac, and in 1923 it was still in the heirs' possession. In 1954 Grant Ross acquired it and sold, in 1959, to Theodore and Polly Meinelt, whose son and wife, Walter and Kathryn Meinelt, still reside there.

**Sarah K. Woodbury died in 1900.*

#21 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

This two story house with garage was built for Adrian Bouchard in 1923-24, by his father, Ovide Bouchard. When Dr. Laurent Bouchard sold his house to the New England Telephone Company to make room for increasing the telephone exchange, he bought #21 from his sister-in-law, Reine Bouchard. Jeffery and Marie Marshall bought it in 1979.

#22 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

"This one story house was built for Mrs. Lavinia (Knowlton) Moore, wife of Thomas Moore, in 1847-8 by Aaron Dodge of Wenham." She only lived six years after its construction. Her husband (2nd) lived until 1868, but died in the Almshouse. In 1892 the Valuation list shows the property in the name of Benjamin Poole. He died in 1896. The 1908 list shows Ben Lane assessed for a house and shed on a quarter acre of land on Central Street (see #6-12 Main Street). In 1916 the administrator for Ben's estate sold the property to Ira Roy Andrews (Bk.2327, p.118), but by 1923 it was assessed to Archer Andrews, his brother. There were ten boys and two girls in the Andrews family! (see #24 Ipswich Road and #48 High Street). In 1935 Archer's daughter, Althea, received and reconveyed title to her father (Bk.3028, p.554). In 1937 Althea married John F. Haggerty and lived in Rhode Island until after her mother's death, when she returned to Topsfield and cared for her father in his last months. John Haggerty died in 1974, and Althea is still owner and resident there.

#23 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

Built about 1932 or 1933 by Calvin M. Watson for his mother, Hattie Watson. Came to him in 1941. His son, Calvin, Jr., lived there several years. Michael Logan, bought it in 1983.

#27 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 5)

A small portion of this two story house was originally a part of Benjamin Herrick's wheelwright shop, which stood on what is now #40 South Main Street. About 1850 the shop was moved to Central Street by J. Perkins Towne, who had it fitted up for a dwelling house. For many years it was occupied by John Bowden, a house painter. In 1893 it was extensively remodeled for Dora L. Osgood, believed to have been a school teacher, the larger new part of the house being constructed by John H. Potter.

Dora L. Osgood appears twice in J. H. Towne's article, both times referred to as Miss. In the 1892 Valuation list Henry B. Osgood appears as guardian for "Deborah" Osgood, and in the 1908 Valuation the name is Deborah L., but the properties always seem to be the same. Her name does not appear in the deaths recorded in Topsfield.

Sometime about 1919 or 1920 Fred and Hattie Watson acquired title to the Central Street house and son, Calvin Watson, inherited it from them.

Gergory Cerino bought it in 1983.

#29 CENTRAL STREET

"This two story house was built for R. Sumner Perkins in 1847 by Daniel Willey." At the time J.H. Towne was writing, it stood in the name of James Wilson, wheelwright, who lived there. Ira Andrews bought it in 1917 for his own occupancy and lived here until his death in 1949, but Bessie Smerage is shown as the owner in the 1935 Assessors' list (see #22 Summer Street).

In 1947 Grace Smerage, a sister-in-law, was living there and it was Grace who sold the house in 1951, the year her husband died, to Ken and Audrey Flewelling, who still own it in 1983.

#32 CENTRAL STREET

The land at this site was bought by Ira Roy Andrews in 1917 when he acquired #29. The house was a small building on the lot at #29. When Bessie Smerage bought #29 this building was moved across the street and remodeled for Dorothy (Andrews) Smith, Ira's daughter. She still occupies at this writing.

#36 CENTRAL STREET

J. H. Towne writes, "This one story house was built for Samuel B. Perkins in 1850, by John Potter." In 1892 it was assessed to Enos Fuller (1844-1901). His daughter, Bessie, died in 1903, at Chicopee, Massachusetts, and left it by her will to Edwin A. Johnson. In 1904 Johnson conveyed to Annie Frame, to whom it was assessed, but her name does not appear in any street listing and she died in 1932 in Salem.

Lizzie Dolley, Executrix for Annie, sold to Herbert F. Dolley of North Attleboro (Bk.2923, p.442). In 1945 Richard and Emma Hay bought (Bk.3422, p.131), but only Emma's name appears in the street listings. On her death in 1957 it was conveyed to Clyde and Leah Hardy, who made it their home until his death in 1980.

#42 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

"This two and a half story house was built for Isaac M. Woodbury in 1876 by William Morgan. A slaughter house and barn were built the same year (later torn down during the depression years by the bank). The house narrowly escaped destruction by fire on December 13, 1885 — loss about \$500." Mrs. Woodbury died in 1900 and her husband survived her by 32 years. The house was then in the name of William T. Andrews. In 1940, Della Leach received title, although it appears not to have been recorded until 1942 (Bk.3294, p.90). She conveyed it to her two daughters, Jean MacDougall and Dorothy Leach, in 1976.

(INTERSECTION WITH SUMMER STREET)

#46 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

In 1873, when Summer Street was laid out, Joseph E. Stanwood bought this lot and moved a portion of the old Nehemiah Cleaveland house, that stood at 31 South Main Street, on to it. He presented the building to the Congregational parish, intending it for a parsonage. Afterwards it was sold to Charles H. Holmes, Esq., and in 1891 when his estate was settled, it was sold at auction to Isaac M. Woodbury and by him removed from its location on the same lot, but near the brook, to its present site. Extensive alterations were made at that time.



42 Central Street in 1900.



42 Central Street in 1989.

The property was assessed to Bessie C. Woodbury in 1935 and to Marjorie Woodbury in 1944 (wife of Robert I. Woodbury). Robert I. Woodbury, grandson of Isaac and son of Edward and Bessie, was married in 1929 and lived in this house until his death in 1951 and his widow, Marjorie, until 1960. Their sons, Steven and David, formed the Monitor Realty Trust which took over the various properties in Topsfield and eventually sold #46 to Charles B. Osborne, Jr. in 1976 (See #47 Central Street).

#47 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

This one and a half story house with garage was built in 1946 and first occupied by Charles B. Osborne, Jr., who occupied it until 1976, when he moved his family to #46 Central Street, leaving #47 to Scott B. Osborne, his son.

#50 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

This house was built for E. Perkins Averill in 1876 by John Potter. Averill died in 1909 and his widow, Susan J., in 1921.

Fred Deering was assessed for the property in 1923 and his wife, Della, and daughter, Lila Wildes, in 1944. Thomas Elliott, Rural Mail Carrier, had been living in it for many years when he acquired title in 1952. Violet (Towne), his widow, sold in November, 1981 to David M. Johnson of Wilmor Road et ux Pamela (Stone).

#51 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

In 1911 Charles Potter built this two story house for his family's occupancy, and the following year he added the barn. His daughter, Evelyn (Potter) Huyck, sold the property in 1968 to Edward Welch, who formerly lived on Gail Street. It has been converted into a two-apartment house.

#54 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

J.H. Towne writes, "In 1877, John H. Potter built a one story house on Central Street and exchanged it with John Smith for the Foster farm on North Street, just south of the Ipswich Town Line."

John Smith, born in England, died in 1897. From 1908

to 1944 the house was assessed to Alvin P. Day. In 1910 an additional parcel was purchased from Andrew Pierce.

In 1949, Bertha Johnson acquired title and lived out her life there with her family. Richard, a son, died in 1975. His brother, Philip, still lives in a portion of the house which stands in his name and that of a tenant, Pelletier.

#55 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

A one story house built about 1926 for James and Minnie Spence. In 1923 the land was assessed to Nellie Paige who sold to Minnie Spence (Bk.2709, p.551). In 1948 Stella Spence married George Day, who occupied the house until his death in 1985. George was Park Commissioner for Topsfield for many years.

#58 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

This two and one half story house was built in 1911. In 1923 through 1944 it was assessed to Fred Dingle (1876-1953), a blacksmith. His wife, Mary Dingle, lived there and his sister, Belle. Belle worked for many years as the telephone operator when Topsfield had a crank telephone system. Could one ask for a more appropriate name?

Frank and Ruth Butler, from Rochester, N.Y., occupied from 1957 to 1958, while #100 Perkins' Row was being built.

Ruth Bowler of Worcester occupied it for three years from 1959 to 1962, when John. F. Conners, Jr. bought the property and moved there from #50 Main Street. When he retired he sold it in 1981 to John and Rita Piechuch from Vermont.

#59 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

In 1877 Amos L. Hodgdon built a one story house on this site which stood in the name of Frank Hodgdon in the 1944 Valuation list. Thomas Cass acquired title in 1947 (the old house having been removed) and built the present house in which his widow, Alice, is living. A portion of the house was formerly a shop behind #51.

The large barn directly behind the present house was built in 1901 and was originally assessed with the property at #67 Central Street. The Cass family owned a large farm at River

Road and Washington Street, but Tom and Alice had been living in Middleton before building on Central Street.

#60 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

This two story house was built for Albert W. Stevens in 1911, and assessed to Annie Stevens in 1923. She died two years later and the property became that of Helen M. Lewis. Her daughter, Margaret, owned "Christmas City", a former salesroom on Boston Street, until she sold the house and business in 1980, and moved to Florida. Present owners are Heath and Karen Paley.

#64 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

This two story house was built in 1911 for Everett H. Carr. Carr died in 1953, and his second wife (both wives were named Alice) continued to live there until 1981. When Wally Kneeland married in 1972 he moved from Main St. and occupied an apartment here. Warren F. Low, 2nd and Nancy occupied part of the house after Wallace Kneeland and his wife, Mary, moved back to Main Street, and owned it in 1983.

#67 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

This two story house was built for Josiah P. Perkins in 1901 by Henry H. Roberts. Perkins died in 1912, after which it was owned by Wilbur and Nellie Paige.

In 1943 Charles H. Spaulding, who had worked on the Taintor estate on Asbury Street for 21 years, bought the property, as it was near his job at the Essex County Coop. Some of the original land and a large barn had been sold to Thomas Cass at #59.

#68 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

This property stood in the name of Fannie F. Peirce, sister of Andrew, as shown on a plan drawn for him in 1914. Probably the house was built for her that year while her brother was developing a local water system. She died in 1915 and Andrew in 1929, but he was not assessed for it in 1923, when it appears in the name of Samuel Allen, who was married in Danvers in 1919. Allen lived there with his wife, Mary

(Quinn), who survived him, when he died in 1962. It is now occupied by Daureen (Wrest) Peterson Cirinna.

#70 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 8)

This two story, hip-roofed house was built for Andrew L. Peirce in 1914, but shows on a plan of Peirce's property in 1930 as belonging to Nangle. Nellie Nangle was assessed for it in 1928, and in 1944. George Dingle was the grantor when Leslie Fales bought it in 1949. Evelyn (Smerage) Fales was a most important aid in this up-date as a life-long resident of Topsfield. The Fales sold in 1959 and moved to #53 Washington Street. The house has been made into two apartments.

(INTERSECTION WITH BOSTON STREET)

#130 CENTRAL STREET (See Map 3)

This two story house was taxed to Jacob Perkins as early as 1768. It was remodeled for Ephraim Perkins in 1877 by John Potter and was still in his name in 1901. Harris Perkins was assessed for it in 1908, and Ella Perkins in 1928. It was sold to Max Katz, cattle dealer, in 1955. (See #142 Central Street.)

#142 CENTRAL STREET

This two story house was built for Harris E. Perkins in 1904. The barn was added in 1913. Harris' wife, Elizabeth, died in 1954 and Harris in 1957. Their two daughters, Myra Sevier and Doris Hall, with their husbands, all occupied the house for a period — the Hall's since Myra's death in 1968.

Directly across the street from #130 is a building which was originally located on the corner of Boston and Central Streets and was used as a combination garage and restaurant. This building was moved by a gas company to its present location. It was used for a time as a dwelling by Harris and Elizabeth Perkins. Both #142 and the unnumbered building are still owned by Doris Hall.

#198 CENTRAL STREET

This one story house at the junction of Central and High Streets was built in 1947 for Sam and Marie Wilkinson who



130 Central Street.



5 Haverhill Road.

worked for T.E. Proctor of Perkins Row. Sam, a gardener, died in 1958, and Marie outlived him fourteen years. The property was acquired by Charles and Glenda Blunt of Danvers in 1972, who still occupy as of this writing.

(INTERSECTION WITH MAPLE STREET)

#201 CENTRAL STREET

This house was built in 1955-56. Where #201 is standing originally there was a barn shown when the property was surveyed by T. A. Appleton for the George L. Gleason Estate, in November, 1926.

The house referred to in J. H. Towne's article written in 1901 as the David Perkin's place, probably stood on what is now #197 Central Street. It was built in 1815, occupied by Herbert J. Lewis in 1901, and had disappeared before the 1908 valuation.

In 1956 Herbert A. Foranson of U.S. Airlines, and his wife, Margaret, were the first occupants of the present house, coming from Denver, Colorado.

The houses east of the Maple Street intersection were all built after 1950.

COLERAIN ROAD

#7 COLERAIN ROAD

This one story house was started in 1934 by Ovide Bouchard for one of his sons, but as the latter moved away the house was sold in 1934 to E. Whit Peabody, a State Trooper, and his wife, Sally. They finished the upper floor and lived there until moving to Hamilton in 1949, when the house was sold to Joseph W. Woodman, Druggist. In 1958 Robert Hartford bought it and lived there until 1972, conveying to Robert D. Richman of Brewer, Maine. John J. and Jacqueline Donaher acquired title in 1980.

#22 COLERAIN ROAD

Moved by Ovide Bouchard from Arrowhead Road to

#22. Bouchard's son, Raymond, summered there. Acquired by Robert Kimball, of Danvers, in 1955 and still owned by his wife, Nancy Mae.

#55 COLERAIN ROAD

This house was built by Hiram L. Clay in 1912. In the 1923 Valuation listing it stood in the name of Fred Whitney and in 1944 in the name of Margaret E. Whitney. Sometime after 1944 the house was occupied by Martha Coffee Pickard and Tilton Pickard. In 1973 J. Patrick Kinham, Attorney, acquired the property. A two car garage, separate from the house, has been added by Kinham.

Colerain Road, at the time the above houses were built, followed up what is now Arrowhead Road as far as the sharp turn, and cut to the right and joined the present Colerain above Oak Drive. Although the new layout of Colerain was made in 1936 no other houses were built on it until Ovide Bouchard had the lots laid out after World War II, including #9 through #44.

CROSS STREET

#29 CROSS STREET

A two story house on this site was remodeled for Capt. Isaac A. Morgan in 1872, and a small house occupied by the farm help was remodeled and relocated the same year. In 1878 Morgan died of a fractured spine and the property was acquired by Charles V. Jackman, who occupied it until he sold it in 1899 to J. Morris Meredith. See #41 Cross Street.

#35 CROSS STREET

Built as a house by Meredith Farm owners for employees. See notes under #41 Cross Street.

#36 CROSS STREET

This two story house was built in 1930 by Dr. Wigglesworth for his farm help. (See #41 Cross Street.)

#41 CROSS STREET

Benjamin Bixby was living on this farm as early as 1690. In 1722 he gave his son, Nathan, one half of all his lands — with house he now dwells in. George Bixby, another son of Benjamin, appears to have been living on this farm in 1730. (H. p.28). George gave his son, Daniel, one half “my dwelling house, barn, etc.” in 1740 and left the other half to his grandson, Daniel, in 1783.

Deacon George Bixby, who died January 5, 1825, was another grandson of George. He bequeathed the estate to the selectmen of Topsfield, in trust, the income to be applied to the support of the ministers of the Congregational denomination in Topsfield, and the farm to be known as “The Donation Farm for the Support of the Gospel”.

The present house #41 was built in 1900 (or added to) and extensive development of the property commenced. Mr. Meredith was a Boston Realtor. He occupied the house for ten or eleven years and conveyed to his nephew, Edward Wigglesworth, who operated the farm intensively as a Guernsey cattle farm.

David Lampert bought the property in 1936 and changed breeds shortly thereafter. His business was in Lawrence, but he had a large number of farm help living on or near the property. David Lampert died in 1979. Irma sold to William A. Coolidge, but reserved life tenancy of the mansion. Coolidge put it into the River Road Charitable Trust, which operated it for experimental farming.

#47 CROSS STREET

Built as houses by Meredith Farm owners for employees. See notes under #41 Cross Street.

DEER RUN

Laid out in 1962. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)



41 Cross Street in 1900.



41 Cross Street in 1989.

EAST STREET

NOTE: Originally the name included the south easterly portion of Campmeeting Road.

#25 EAST STREET

This house does not appear in JHT's list, but the land on which it stands was in the name of Mary T. Robinson as early as 1892. Presumably it was built to accommodate the farm help that was needed to attend her 70 odd acres. John S. Lawrence (see #76 Campmeeting Road) used it for the farm help at the farm across the road (#30) and it was assessed to him in 1935. Lawrence's wife died in 1937, and Dora Pym bought the property when he moved to Manchester.

Harold S. Pym and his wife, Rosamond, occupied the house until their deaths in the mid-sixties. Dora Pym lived for many years at #64 Ipswich Road, until 1960. Arthur Pym, son of Arthur F. and Dora (Heys), eventually became the owner of the Lawrence estate and sold it off in parcels with the various buildings, but lived at #25 East Street into the 1980's.

#27 EAST STREET

This house, originally on Ipswich Road near the beginning of Willowdale Road, was built for David Clarke, in 1871, by J. H. Potter. John Lawrence (see #76 Campmeeting Road) had it moved to its present site before World War I, where it was occupied by some of his farm workers. It has had extensive remodeling with dormer windows and an ell with three decreasing roof levels.

In 1959 Harvey and Martha Perry moved from #68 Ipswich Road and lived there until moving to #9 Canterbury Hill Road in 1970. That same year, Judson and Barbara Pratt bought the house, which they still occupy at this writing. Since 1971 there has been a separate apartment arranged.

There are two houses mentioned in John H. Towne's article which have disappeared since he was writing, but should be mentioned for those who may be trying to trace family connections. The first, was on the west side of East

Street, a short distance north of what is now called Wildes Street, in an area that has been added to the Willowdale State Forest. To quote Towne, "The body of this one story house was moved to this site (probably from Linebrook) for widow Sarah Averill and her sister, Miss Anna Clarke, in 1826 and an addition was built shortly after".

The property was still in the name of Sally Averill's estate in the 1892 Valuation. In the 1908 Valuation it appears under the name of Amanda Foster. In 1923 the Foster house was assessed to Wellington Donaldson.

From 1923 to 1944 the house was occupied by Austin D. Haskell, farmer, but he was not assessed for it. The author remembers that Haskell drove by his house on South Main Street in a one horse shay, every week to pick up a bale of hay at the Essex County Coop.

The second missing house was on the north side of the road, just beyond the bend as the road approaches the Ipswich town line. Again, I quote: "Isaac Cummings was living on this site, or near here, as early as the spring of 1663. A one story house, the northerly part of the present (1901) building, was standing on this site as early as 1747 when it was taxed to Nathaniel Low, who sold the property to Samuel Low and John Bradstreet, June 9, 1753. They sold to Charles Davis, February 26, 1787 who, in turn, sold to David Hobbs, blacksmith, in 1798. At that time the house contained four windows and twenty square feet of glass."

Hobb's blacksmith shop was still standing in 1901 near the brook. Towne speculates that Cummings' house may have been on the old cellar hole that was still visible in 1901, not far from the above. The shop burned in 1922. At the time Towne wrote, the house was in the name of William S. Bell. See picture in HC Vol. V., page 9. In the 1923 Valuations it was in Franklin Bell's name. In 1928, Franklin Bell was still assessed for the land, but no house. HC Vol. III, pg. 168, has information about the Hobbs' family which is too extensive to quote here.

All of the existing houses northerly of the former Lawrence estate have been built since World War II.



9 East Common Street in 1900 (Congregational Church Parsonage).



9 East Common Street in 1989 (Emerson Center).

EAST COMMON STREET

#9 EAST COMMON STREET

J. H. Towne writes, "The Congregational Parsonage. This two story house facing the Common, was built for Joseph Emerson in 1814. The barn was built the same year. It afterwards came into the possession of his daughter, Harriet Jane Emerson, who married Charles H. Holmes, son of John Holmes, the first U.S. Senator from Maine. Mr. Holmes was a lawyer and the tallest man in Essex County, being 6 feet 8 inches in height. Mrs. Holmes embraced the Roman Catholic religion and set up an oratory in one of the rooms in this house. June 1, 1886 the property was sold to the Congregational parish. See HC Vol. II, p.93; Vol. VI, p.85. A short distance north from this house and near the lone elm tree, formerly stood a small two story house, for many years in the possession of the Averill family. It was probably built about 1738 and taken down about 1812."

In 1902 the Congregational Parish sold it to Willard Emery, who put the house and land in his wife, Annitta's, name, while he was assessed for two horses and other personal property. In 1927 Annitta, a widow, sold to Katherine Schyler Choate, whose husband was editor of the Boston Herald. They did not use the property as a year round home, and were separated before 1934, when Katherine became registered here. In 1956 she married Raymond S. Wilkins, of Gloucester, and in 1959 she turned the house over to the Congregational Church.

The house, fixed up for church offices and Sunday School rooms, goes by the name "Emerson House" for the original owner.

FORREST ROAD

(See Map 4)

This area was owned by S. Warren Forrest in 1948. All the houses were built after that. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

FOX RUN

This area was purchased by Thomas Cargill from Joseph and Dorothy Robins of River Road in 1957, and all the houses were built after 1958. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

GAIL CIRCLE

Runs southerly from Gail Street and southwesterly to a junction with the second part of the layout of Gail Street. Accepted June 25, 1947, it was named for Myron Peabody's daughter, Gail. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

GAIL PLACE

So-called, is not a way. The two lots between #17 and #19 actually extend to Gail Street, with 18 foot frontages. There was no Planning Board at the time of the layout of these lots. When one was established, it would not approve of a "place" without a turn-around. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

GAIL STREET

(See Map 6)

#11 GAIL STREET

Edward F. and Catherine Welch of Central Street built the first house in the subdivision and lived there until 1968, when they moved to Central Street, selling to Arthur E. Balser, Area Supervisor. In 1976, Richard F. Little, Police Officer, came from Rowley to purchase the property and resides there at this writing.

#12 GAIL STREET

This was the second house in the subdivision, purchased by Philip Godbout of Main Street, Custodian at the Town Hall for many years, and at this writing the only resident who has lived on the street ever since its first layout in 1939. No

other houses were built on the street until after the end of World War II.

#18 GAIL STREET

In 1947 Claude A. Cox, air pilot, bought a new house at this address although the street extension had not been accepted. He and his wife, Dorothy, made it their home until 1954, when it was rented by David Young, U.S.C.G. pilot who moved from Summer Street.

In 1957, Joseph and Alice Carver from Allston acquired the property and continue to make it their home at this writing.

#19 GAIL STREET

In 1946, Harris (Pete) Giles, a clerk and owner of the local drug store, built the third house on the street, and the first one on the extension before it had been accepted. Because of the hilly nature of the terrain, like many other houses in the area, it has a garage under the first floor level.

In 1956, Peter McMorran, Accountant, and his wife, Janet, took over and held for seven years, since which time it has changed hands numerous times.

#23 GAIL STREET

In 1950 Claude and Marion Cyr bought this house and made it their home until 1965, when they removed to #118 Main Street.

#25 GAIL STREET

In 1950 Myron Peabody, contractor, and his wife, Olive, moved from #36 Main Street, q.v. and built here where they remained until 1954, when it was sold to James L. McLean, a Canadian, and his two daughters, Margaret and Grace, who were still here until 1982.

#29 GAIL STREET

In 1948 Albion Froberg, of Melrose, foreman for the J.F. Herne Co. of Everett, bought the fifth house on the street and still occupies it in retirement. Next to Phil Godbout at #12 he and his wife, Evelyn, are the longest time residents on the street.

#30 GAIL STREET

A third arrival on the street in 1950 was the Roger Peabody family, which still occupies as original owners. Roger was Police Chief in town from 1967 to 1974. He and his wife, Nellie, moved from Main Street. He is a native of Topsfield and brother of Jacob T. and Myron F. Peabody.

#31 GAIL STREET

In 1953 Roy and Priscilla Ackerman moved from Beverly and held until 1974.

The upper end of Gail Circle joins Gail Street between #30 and 32.

#32 GAIL STREET

In 1952, William and Phillis Murphy, from Ohio, bought this house which had been rented when first constructed, to Ray Taylor. The Murphys held until 1958. Ronald H. and Shirley (Burkinshaw) Giovannacci bought in 1960 and still hold at this writing. Ronny is a native of Topsfield.

#33 GAIL STREET

In 1950 Lawrence and Marilyn (Farrar) Linfield acquired this house that sets high above the road. Marilyn is a native of Topsfield and Larry, while not born here, grew up a few doors down the street from his wife. They were of an age with the author's children and played with them in the fountain pool at #31 South Main Street. They still own the Gail Street house.

#34 GAIL STREET

In 1952, Charles and Laura Denault bought this house, which they still occupy in 1985. Laura currently helps on the Senior Citizens News letter and Proctor School lunches.

#35 GAIL STREET

In 1952 Don and Janet Fadden moved from Rowley Bridge Street to this house, which they occupied for 13 years.

#36 GAIL STREET

In 1953 William and Mary Van Tassell came from Somerville, and in 1980 their son, William Jr., still occupied.

#37 GAIL STREET

In 1956, Antonio (Tony) and Victoria (Toya) Gangi built this house with access from Prospect Street. With the extension of Gail Street they were able to get a driveway on to Gail Street and thus acquired a new address (see #17 Prospect Street and #6-14 Main Street). Tony, a native of Topsfield, came home from World War II and opened a small grocery at #14 Main Street. With the advice of Toya he developed the shopping plaza where he expanded his small grocery into a real market.

Toya (Bilzi) was very active in Town and Historical Society affairs. Tony died in 1981; Toya spends part of the year in Florida, part with her daughter, Rosemarie, at Gail Street. Son David lives with his wife, Cheryl, at #11 Linebrook Road.

#39 GAIL STREET

In 1952 Stephen and Irene (Walsh) Tierny moved from Main Street. When Stephen died in 1973, Irene sold and moved to the Little Brook Housing development. She is a native of Topsfield (see #9 River Road).

#40 GAIL STREET

In 1952 Myron Peabody, Jr., son of the developer, built this house and occupied it for five years. He was the fifth native of Topsfield to own property on this street.

GARDEN STREET

#9 GARDEN STREET

This house was designed by John W. Peirce for his own occupancy when he married in 1934 (see #116 Boston Street). Originally, part of the house was a story and one half brick structure used as a potting house for the greenhouse on the Peirce estate. Peirce writes "we added a small wing, containing a pine paneled living room and kitchen — two bedrooms and

bath on the second floor. During the next 25 years various additions were made to bring the house to its present dimensions. A garage-stable was added close to the street."

The bronze church-bell, which was installed on the front lawn in 1976, came from Dover, New Hampshire where Colonel Peirce had given it to the Universalist Church as a memorial to his parents. The bell carries the name E.H. Holbrook. E. Medway, cast in 1847 in Hanson, Massachusetts. When the building was razed the heirs of the Colonel were entitled to recover it, and they did so, bringing it to Topsfield where members of his family have lived on the same property for 120 years.

#11 GARDEN STREET

This two and one-half story house was built in 1880 close to the Turnpike, as porter's lodge to #116 Boston Street. At the time Mrs. Peirce married Howard Brown in 1929, it was moved up on to the hill near the mansion. In 1947, when Dr. Riggs bought #116 Boston Street, John Peirce moved it a second time, to its present location and leased out to tenants for a number of years, until Roger and Pauline Evans, a great-granddaughter of Colonel Peirce, moved out from Boston and took title in 1972.

#26 GARDEN STREET

This house was designed by John W. Peirce for his brother, Robert K. Peirce when he married in 1949 and moved down from the family estate at Witch Hill. A substantial addition was made in 1951. His widow, Mildred, has lived there since his death in 1964.

A large part of the Peirce farm has been taken over by the Salem-Beverly Water Supply Board as the site for future storage.

The balance of the houses on Garden Street have been built since World War II.

GLEN ROAD

(See Map 6)

Laid out in 1960. (See HC Vol. XXXIII) All houses built since then, except #4, a remodeled garage (see #42 Washington Street).

GROVE STREET

#6 and #8 GROVE STREET (See Map 5)

"In 1860 George H. Waterhouse, blacksmith, moved from Middleton a barn that he bought of Mrs. William Munday and relocated it on this spot using it for a blacksmith shop. It was afterwards used by W. S. Bell, painter, and in 1882, William Gallup, the owner, had it remodeled into a dwelling-house. The large shop between the house and the street was built by John J. Potter for George Waterhouse in 1863. He made axes and dies."

In 1901 the property stood in the name of Mrs. Alonzo P. Burnham (Carrie Eveline). In the 1923-24 Valuations it was assessed to Fred Williams, a painter. At one time cider was made here in a cider-mill on the property.

In 1953 Clayton Elliott of Georgetown acquired title. He occupied the house in the rear (#6) and remodeled the shop into two apartments. He has since moved, but still retains the property.

#10 GROVE STREET (See Map 5)

In 1859, this two story house was built for Mrs. John G. Hood by John H. Potter. Probably the first house on the street which was laid out in 1856, just after the construction of the railroad into town.

Elisha Hood of Georgetown, probably a cousin, sold the property to Ellen Welch, daughter of Sarah Hood and wife of William Welch. Leone P., son of Ellen, conveyed to his wife, Mary A. Welch in 1908, and she was the owner in the 1928 Valuation. She died in 1932 and the property was assessed to Albion and Carrie Scribner in 1944, who sold in 1945 to Clayton Rock, and he to Edward W. Gaudet in 1950, who



10 Grove Street in 1900.



10 Grove Street in 1989.

occupied until 1955. The house was occupied by Karl and Eleanor Becker until 1958, when the Bergstroms from Wilmington acquired title (Carl I. Bergstrom) and have lived there for twenty-five years.

#14 GROVE STREET (See Map 5)

In 1885 a strip of land 14 feet wide was sold off (called the Bank Lot) and later the same year (Bk.1165, p.234) John Bailey bought this adjacent lot from Herbert L. Gale. Bailey was assessed for land only in the 1892 Valuation. Merrill Bailey, a son, sold to Justin Welch (Bk.1711, p.441) in 1903 and it passed from Justin to his wife, Abbie J. Welch, still with no buildings.

In 1931 Abbie Welch sold land to Damiano (David) Gangi (Bk. 2882, p.149) a former worker on the Proctor Estate. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Eligio Massarone, who built this house in 1950 and they are the present (1983) owners and reside there.

#15 GROVE STREET (See Map 5)

In 1869 John H. Potter built this one story house for Charles Winslow. His widow, Elizabeth (Gould) lived there until 1913. They had a son, Frank, who lived until 1924, but appears to have been in the care of a guardian, I. F. Poor, who sold the house to Bertha E. Stanwood (Mrs. George A. Sr.) in 1920. Title passed to her daughter, Elizabeth Hatt, and son, George A. Stanwood II, in 1983.

#16 GROVE STREET (See Map 5)

"This one and one-half story house was built in 1859 for Mrs. Benjamin C. Orne by John H. Potter." Mr. Orne was Topsfield's Postmaster for three years and was the first one to introduce the idea of post office boxes. A son, Benjamin A., died in 1908 in which year it was assessed to his heirs and devisees.

Abbie Welch appears to have acquired title some time before 1923, as she sold the house together with some of the land described under #14 to Damiano (David) Gangi. All the Gangi family lived here until they built homes of their own, leaving Alex and Irene to occupy until the house sold in 1970

to Roger T. Patch. He added a living room on the northwest side of the house and renovated. When Patch moved to Surrey Lane in 1975 he conveyed to Harold Heie, and Heie to present owners and occupants, James and Vicki White, in 1980.

#17 GROVE STREET (See Map 5)

This house was a dwelling-house in Middleton for about fifteen years and was taken down and placed on the present location in 1860, an addition being made at the time. Jacob Foster was the carpenter for Edward H. Ferguson, shoemaker. Ferguson was assessed for it in 1908 and his daughter, Annie F., was listed in 1923 through 1944. She died in 1945 and Ruth Ferguson Walsh, grand-daughter of Edward and daughter of Ephraim Ferguson, by his second wife, took over the property, and still owns it in 1983.

#19 and #21 GROVE STREET (See Map 5)

This two and one-half story house was built for Joseph W. Rust by John H. Potter in 1876. In 1888 Salmon D. Hood was made administrator of Rust's estate and Elizabeth Rust bought the property at auction. In 1912 C. J. Small acquired title from the Elizabeth Rust estate and sold it to Charles J. McCollum. In 1945 McCollum sold to Walter B. Scribner, who built the house in the rear numbered 21A, and made the front house into two apartments. Annie F. Andrews had been living there since before 1940 and continued on until her death in 1957.

In 1957 Fred Durkee, Carpenter of Danvers, bought the property and occupied it until 1973, renting the other apartments. In 1973 Don Fraser of Gloucester bought it, but occupied it only one year, renting it thereafter until it was sold to Charles Cooke of Perkins Row in 1977.

#21A GROVE STREET (See Map 5)

This one story house was built by Walter B. Scribner in 1943. In 1954 Charles R. and Margaret Hodgdon sold it to Roy C. and Ann Ford. This lot has no frontage on the street but has an easement to pass through the driveway on #21. Ann Ford owns as of 1983.

#23 GROVE STREET (See Map 5)

"This two and one-half story house was built for William E. Kimball by Jacob Foster in 1871." In 1892 it was assessed to Charles Herrick, and in 1908 to William H. Herrick, probably a nephew. William was a shoe manufacturer and appears to have put the property in his wife, Elizabeth's, name, as she was listed as the owner in 1923, but on her death it went back into William's name. In 1944, following his death in 1943, the Town placed a tax lien on it and it was vacant.

Fred M. Williams, a Canadian and a house painter, occupied it for some time and eventually gained title. In 1951 Williams sold to Dexter W. Rundlett (Bk.3857, p.413), and in 1952 Rundlett sold to F. G. and Hilda Allen. Current owner (1982) is Hilda Allen.

#24 GROVE STREET (See Map 6)

In 1866 Edward A. Hood sold 3 acres 70 sq. rds. to William E. Kimball on Grove Street. The 1884 Atlas shows a house on this location with the name Augustine Peabody who died that year. The 1892 Valuation lists Helena Peabody as the owner of a house and three and one-half acres. She died in 1896.

J. H. Towne attributes this two-story house to Neilson, no first name, and dates it as built in 1875 for Daniel E. Hurd.

In the 1908 Valuation it appears in the name of James Walsh and the same in 1923 and 1928. In 1935 the area is reduced to three acres and James T. Walsh is assessed for one-half acre together with a dwelling house. In 1944 Elizabeth Walsh was assessed for the 3-acre and house parcel and James T., her brother, for a dwelling and two, one-half acre lots. Now occupied by Mary Walsh, James' widow.

#26 GROVE STREET (See Map 6)

This two and one-half story house was formerly a stitch shop built for Robert Lake in 1858. It originally stood near what is now #8 Grove Street and was afterwards moved to #27 Main Street. It remained here but a few years when it was purchased by William B. Kimball and again removed to Grove Street and placed at its present (1901) location. He had

it remodeled into a dwelling-house in 1866, the work being done by Jacob Foster. William B., merchant, was the son of William E. Kimball, but he died of typhoid fever before his father. His wife, Mary S. had the house at #6 Park Street built the year after her husband's death in 1888 so, presumably they lived on Grove Street. In 1901, Towne lists #26 as property of Joseph B. Poor, occupied by John W. Burton.

In 1917 Mary E. Poor conveyed the property to Daisy B. Smerage and she sold to Katherine Rockwell in 1923 (Bk.2765, p.426). Katherine died in 1962 and her husband, Leonard, in 1963, when the property was transferred into the Watson possession. It is now occupied by John T. Watson, electrician.

#30 GROVE STREET (See Map 6)

This one and one-half story house was built by James T. Walsh on land assessed in 1928 to his father, James Walsh. In 1953 he sold to son, Edmund T. Walsh, mason, who continues to reside there.

#32 GROVE STREET (vacant lot)

A small one and one-half story building was originally a shoe shop built for Josiah Gould about 1840 by Samuel Clarke. "It stood on his farm on Washington Street until 1855 when it was sold to A. Porter Kneeland for \$62. He had it removed and placed on the corner of the house lot on Main Street (South) owned by Mrs. Abram Welch, where he used it as a shoe shop. In 1871 he sold it to Abram Welch, who sold it to John Janes the following year. He had it removed to its present (1902) location and there lived in it. Janes afterward went to Utica, N.Y. and the building since that time has popularly been known as 'Utica'." In 1883 J. C. Janes conveyed to C. E. Fuller and his wife conveyed, about the time of World War I, to Bertha Thompson of Salem. In the Assessors list of 1923 it is called 'shop' and by 1928 it had disappeared.

#33 GROVE STREET (See Map 6)

J. Porter Gould owned the next lot to the north and in his will he left the shop on his house lot to his cousin, Earnest

A. Bennet, "the above mentioned shop to be moved onto the adjoining land which I also give him . . ." Bennet died before Gould and a codicil was added making the property over to Esther Bennet. She married second, Augustus Jenkins, and the property was assessed to her through 1944.

In 1953 Arthur Burgess acquired the two story house at #33 and lived there until 1961, since which time it has turned over at least five times in 21 years — Evelyn Johnson; Alan Hooley; Stuart Abrams; P. Farr; and the current owner, who resides there, is Nancy Bowditch.

(INTERSECTION WITH GAIL STREET)

#34 GROVE STREET (See Map 6)

This one story house was built in the late 20's for Clarence Kneeland, who sold in 1935 to Salvatore Gangi, barber. In 1977 the Durkee's bought it and moved from Danvers. Mr. Durkee died in 1979. His widow, Yvette Durkee, resides there.

#37 GROVE STREET (See Map 6)

"This one story house was built for J. Porter Gould in 1871 by John H. Potter." A shop on the property, used for a millinery store by Mr. Gould, was built in 1889 (see the note under #33 Grove Street relative to the shop). Mr. Gould died in 1927 at the age of 90 and left the residue of his estate, after disposing of the real estate, to his fourth cousin, so it would appear that he had no direct descendants.

NOTE: Mr. Towne's article gives the date of the building as 1871, but the title to the property was passed June 18, 1872, Bk. 1078, p.170, from J. Waldo Towne. However, there was a portion of the lot conveyed, possibly earlier, but not recorded until Bk. 1579, p.475 in 1898. The present house is two and one half stories with an ell at the rear.

In 1929, two years after Mr. Gould's death, the property was conveyed by Mary I. Hull to George and Anna Wilmot, Bk.2805, p.160. Anna died in 1948 and George sold to Theresa Plummer, District Nurse, in 1951, she to her daughter,

Elizabeth, who lived there with her sister until 1956.

Roger S. Dunn, florist of Bedford, Massachusetts, occupied the property until 1963, when David S. and Margaret Perley took over, coming from Hamilton. Eugene and Doris Pelletier purchased it in 1968 and rent the main house to their daughter, Sally Cabral, and her family. The Pelletier's live in a separate apartment.

#38 GROVE STREET (See Map 6)

This two and one half story house was built for Florence M. Gould in 1902 by L. A. Guppy of Danvers. In 1907 she married Frank O. Roberts, but neither of them appears to have been assessed for it in 1908. Actually she died only one month after their marriage, but Frank was assessed in 1944 for the house lot after selling off parts of the adjacent land.

The house had been unoccupied for some time when Floyd C. Wilkins and his wife took over the property, moving from High Street in 1954, the year Mr. Roberts died (uncle of Raymond). Clifford Keeling, from Sharon, Massachusetts, then purchased the property in 1982.

#39 GROVE STREET (See Map 6)

This two story house was built for John Lynch in 1869 by John H. Potter. The end next to the railroad (now the N.E. Power Transmission Line) was originally the addition which Joseph W. Reed had built on the Academy Building in 1862-3. The ell was sold to Ariel H. Gould and removed to this location when the Town purchased the Academy to be used as a public school.

John Lynch died in 1903 and his widow, Katherine, continued on there until 1939, when the other heirs insisted that the estate be settled. Late in 1940, Alex and Ruth Houston bought the house and after extensive repairs to heating and plumbing moved in, in 1941.

In 1951 the Houston's moved to the Bradstreet house at #95 South Main and the property was conveyed to Bertha Wahl, teacher in the Lexington School System, and she and her mother lived there until 1972 when Wahl had a house built on land partitioned from #39, that new house now being #43. Marie K. Harper from Peabody was the next owner. In

1983 it was occupied by Stephan and Fay Pyle from Newburyport.

#46 GROVE STREET (See Map 6)

This house was assessed in 1935 to Arlo Roberts, brother of Raymond Roberts of Main Street. He built the house, probably to keep himself busy during the depression, and occupied it the rest of his life. His wife predeceased him and his daughter, Joan, married Howard Hill and continued to live there. Arlo died in 1961 and Royce and Jean Johnston acquired the property in 1964, and still reside there in the 1980's. The home is unusual in that it has an L-shaped roof line, but a rectangular base.

HAVERHILL ROAD

#4 HAVERHILL ROAD (See Map 7)

This one story house was built for Rena (Palmer) Ingraham (Mrs. Clinton) on land assessed to Philip Palmer, with frontage on Main Street. Half an acre was set off from the Main Street property for this lot, and the house built on it in 1915. In 1936 the County flattened the curve from Main Street into Haverhill Road. (Street numbers are given to houses according to their distance, measured along the center line of the street, from the intersection of the center line with that of the adjoining street. In a large intersection this may mean there are no small numbers.)

James B. and Barbara Goodpastor* occupied the house from 1953 to 1958, then during 1959 Dudley and Bonnie Wiegand lived there before moving into the enlarged house at #27 Prospect Street. The Goodpastors* occupied again until 1966, at which time Arthur Heard, Jr. of Ipswich acquired title and lives there (1983).

**Barbara's title in 1956, Bk.4025, p.347; title in 1959, Bk.4586, p.185.*

#5 HAVERHILL ROAD (See Map 7)

John Towne has the following to say: "This two story house was built for Dr. John Merriam in 1797, the ell being

added in 1828. In 1856 the property was sold to Samuel Todd, and it has remained in the possession of the family (1901) since that time." See HC Vol. III p.28 and p.127.

"The MERRIAM SHOP and BARN, Haverhill Street formerly stood beside the road in the field between the Palmer house (#4 Haverhill Road) and the cemetery (#8 Haverhill Road). The shoe shop occupied by Henry A. Merriam was removed to his lot on Main Street before July, 1841, when he sold one half of the shop and lot to Augustine S. Peabody. November 25, 1843 he sold the remaining half to Peabody, who remodeled it into a dwelling house now (1901) owned by Thomas J. Kneeland. The barn was destroyed by fire in November, 1853."

In 1908 the house was assessed to Harriet Todd's heirs, and again in 1923 with the note "by Susan C. Dodge." Susan died in 1925 and the property continued in the name of Samuel P. Dodge until his death at the age of 97 in 1958.

In 1959, Dr. James L. Mayne, Jr. bought the property, altered the house into apartments and had the six acres of land divided into ten lots. Jerry Howard, from Ohio, bought in 1967, lived in one apartment until 1974, since when it has been rented to tenants.

Houses on lots numbered 11, 13, 15 and 17 were all built subsequent to 1959.

#12 HAVERHILL ROAD

About where #12 would be in the Pine Grove Cemetery, was the location of the meetinghouse agreed upon in 1663 by the citizens of Boxford, they to pay their share of the pastor's salary, since it was a long trek to the church in Rowley of which Boxford was then a part. See H p. 246. This building was removed by Sarg. John Gould, to whom it was sold for £5, "he to have the glass." Tradition says that it was afterward located in the field near the Turnpike and Averill Street, formerly known as 'Springville'. Also there was "Indian watch" where the minister would write sermons and watch. Parson Capen and his wife are supposedly buried beneath the spot where the altar of the meeting house stood.

#16 HAVERHILL ROAD

The building used for Maintenance and office of the Cemetery Commissioner was built in 1977 after many years of delay by the Finance Committee.

#27 HAVERHILL ROAD

John Towne writes "This one story house was built by Timothy M. Phillips in 1855, for his own occupancy." Erwin T. Phillips, Road Surveyor and Pound Keeper, from Boxford, occupied it until his death in 1906. Arthur Perkins, similarly employed, was assessed for it in 1908 and his son, Lawrence, in 1944. Lawrence (1902-1967), commonly known as 'Stub', married Mary E. Rustin who survived him, passing away in 1977. Lots on the north side of Pine Street were sold out of the Perkins field, as was #31 Haverhill Road, before her death. A number of out-buildings were assessed, which were in dilapidated condition at the time of Stub's death, and Mrs. Perkins had them removed after 1968.

#41 HAVERHILL ROAD

This small one story house, far back from the road, was built for Frank E. Gould in 1901, and he was still assessed for it in 1935, at which time he was living in Maitland, Florida.

Howard Barnes acquired title in 1941, and in 1955 he built the roadside restaurant called the Busy Bees. His 3 daughters and son helped run it — the girls names all began with 'B' — and his son, Albert, became manager. The business sold in 1971 when they moved to Maine. The present owner is Robert Howard.

(INTERSECTION WITH BARE HILL ROAD)

#50 HAVERHILL ROAD

This one story house was built on land formerly owned by Roy Ford of Bare Hill Road, and acquired by Edmund J. Wallace, 3rd in 1961. He came from Winthrop. Charles W. Currier has owned the property since 1967.

#54 HAVERHILL ROAD

This one story house was built on land formerly owned by Roy Ford and acquired by Donald H. Currier, Jr. in 1957. It was sold to Andrew and Linda Mosco of Lynn, in 1977.

#57 HAVERHILL ROAD

This one story house was built in 1957 for Mr. Rudolph J. Mattogno, a cabinet maker, who came to Topsfield from Lynn. The land was cut off from property of Wayland Burnham, former Road Commissioner.

#59 HAVERHILL ROAD

This one story house was built in 1957 for Alfred P. Muldoon, a teacher from Peabody. The lot was cut out from land of Wayland Burnham. Near here was the site of the Israel Gallup house. John Towne writes: "Just beyond Gallup's Brook (officially Pye Brook), at the first rise, is the site of the two story house occupied by the Gallup family for many years. In 1830 Samuel Phillips was living here and the last occupants were Widow Sally Kneeland and her family. The house was taken down in 1858 by Samuel Clarke."

About where Wilmor Road now starts was the site of the Stephen Perley house, which was burned in February 1867. Near it was William Money's one story house, which was also destroyed by fire. Further in on the Wilmor development stood the Ivory Hovey house and barn, located "near Pye Brook at 'Hovey's Plain' — assessed to Ivory Hovey in 1816. He died October 3, 1816. The property was bought by Billy and Joseph Emerson, and rented to Timothy Emerson, who was the last occupant of the house, the buildings being destroyed by fire January 2, 1821."

NOTE: All evidence of these cellar holes disappeared with excavation of the Hovey Plain by Connolly Bros. who sold large quantities of sand and gravel from the area before World War II.

#75 HAVERHILL ROAD (opposite Wilmor Road intersection)

This one story house was built in 1952 by Edmund C.

Harrington and occupied by his family until 1963, after which there was a change of tenants every year until 1968, when Keith Ireland moved in for six years. Since 1974 it was occupied by Dorothy M. D'Agnese, and now John Hein.

The 1930 Highway map showing the improved layout of Haverhill Road shows a way-side stand on this property which burned down before Harrington bought the land from Wayland Burnham.

#77 HAVERHILL ROAD

This bungalow was built in 1928 by Wayland Burnham on land which he had bought in 1925. His sister, Charlotte Canfield, bought a lot from him and had him build this house for an investment. Philip C. Pitman, machinist, bought the house in 1950 and has lived there ever since.

#79 HAVERHILL ROAD

This bungalow was built by Wayland Burnham in 1925. He sold his sister, Charlotte (Lottie) Canfield, and her husband, Elden, a small lot with the house #77, which they never occupied. They separated in 1928. Lottie moved to Washington Street and her niece, Mrs. Anthony (Babe) Longo, occupied it from 1937 to 1939. Wayland and his second wife, Florence Burnham, lived there from 1940 until their deaths in 1960. There has been an annual change of occupancy almost every year since. Now owned and occupied by Jeffrey Gove.

Wayland E. Burnham, for many years Road Commissioner in Topsfield, originally ran a gas station which was given up during World War II. He had bought 15 acres from Samuel P. Dodge (see #5 Haverhill Road) from which he sold off the above lots number 57, 61, 75 and 77.

#80-100 HAVERHILL ROAD

All these houses were built by developers during the 1960's.

#102 HAVERHILL ROAD

This two story house was built in 1934 for Harry E. Atkins on land cut out of the Connolly Bros. gravel pit. It

was used as a restaurant under the name of The Silhouette, until sold to Donald Smerage in August, 1939, when Atkins took over The Sunny Side Restaurant facing Hood's Pond on the Ipswich shore.

Smerage sold #102 to Thayer F. Hersey in 1944, and Hersey to Leo F. Richardson in 1945. James H. Cooke bought in 1950 (Bk.3773, p.275). The Ralston Livingston family moved in from Danvers in 1953. Mr. Livingston died in 1958, after which the house was made into a two apartment building, and his daughter continued to live there until 1961, since which time it has had a frequent turnover of tenants. Current owners are Joseph and Lee Harris of Ipswich Road.

#107-118 HAVERHILL ROAD

On both sides of the road were lots partitioned by the Videtta Corp. and the houses were built since 1965.

#148 HAVERHILL ROAD

This one story house started out as a small summer camp built by Carl Gustafson in 1927 on Lot #4 of five cut out of the Connolly Bros. gravel pit. Charles Spofford bought Lot #5 the same year, but does not appear to have built on it and sold out to Gustafson in 1937. In 1940 Hannah Gustafson sold both lots and the camp to Louis Stone (Bk.3239, p.377) and in 1948 Alexander C. Lawrence bought it and winterized for year-round occupancy. In 1950 they added two rooms on the southeasterly side, and as the family grew they built an addition on the other side, and have continued to make improvements inside the house.

#152 HAVERHILL ROAD

This one story house, like the one at #148, was originally a summer camp built in 1927 for Helen P. Acker of Revere, Massachusetts. In 1936 she sold to Bruno Hartung, who turned it over the same year to John. T. Peterson (Bk.3088, p.99). In 1942 John Leadvaro (originally Laudarowicz) bought the property, but Peterson continued to be listed as occupying the house until 1943. It was probably Peterson who winterized it. Few structural changes have been made since. Lydia M. (Mrs. John) Leadvaro continued to live there after her hus-

band's death in 1978 and cared for Mrs. Sawyer, her mother, who died at age 100 in 1985. Mrs. Leadvaro also died in 1985.

#158 HAVERHILL ROAD

Bruno Hartung of Revere bought a portion of the present lot from Mary A. C. Rust, wife of Loring Rust and daughter of Jacob Towne, in 1924, but it was not recorded until 1928 (Bk.2807, p.599), although he bought Lot #1 of five from Gregory Connolly in 1927 (Bk.2627, p.130). In 1928 he was assessed for a house on ½ acre lot, but he was listed as of Revere. He may have rented it at first or used it as a summer camp. From 1934 until his death in 1947, he lived in it.

Robert C. Bishop purchased the property in 1946, by which time it included Lot #2 of the original five set off by Connolly Bros. He ran a small store and gasoline station until the Sun Oil Co. bought him out. The property could continue as a non-conforming business site in a residential area. The one and a half story house was moved onto a lot at #162 Haverhill Road, and the modern Sunoco service station built.

Opposite the present gas station, Charles Spofford moved a building from Danvers for a camp, sometime between 1923 and 1928. He was assessed for it in 1928 and 1935. It eventually burned and the remains of it are still there, out of sight from the road. A shed stood on the property until 1983, at which time it was removed.

In the low ground north of the Spofford camp, there was a series of ice houses operated by Isaac M. Woodbury. These were assessed as follows: 2 at \$500 and one new one at \$500 in 1908. Number not given in 1923, assessment \$3000; in 1928 \$1000; in 1935, \$800. They were subject to spontaneous combustion when the ice began to melt and wet the saw dust in which the ice was packed. Many people remember cutting ice there on Hood's Pond.

#162 HAVERHILL ROAD

In HC Vol. XXII p.136 is the following statement: "Connolly Bros., the Dame bungalow removed from Bare Hill Road to Haverhill Road, near Hood's Pond and remodeled." Gre-

gory Connolly sold lot #1 of five, set off in 1925, to Bruno Hartung in 1927 (Bk.2627, p.130). It was on this lot that the Dame Cottage had been placed in 1916. Robert C. Bishop bought the house from Hartung in 1946, by which time Lot #2 was included. When he sold to the Sun Oil Co. in 1967 he had the house moved to the northwest and continues to occupy it as of 1983, a retired leather worker.

#167 HAVERHILL ROAD

George Frame held a lease from Silas Deland on 100 foot strip of land from Haverhill Road to the Pond, which lease he conveyed to Theodore Hoyt of Lynn in 1915. Hoyt was assessed for it in 1923, although he only held a lease on the land. He passed along the lease to Margery Wilkins of Lynn and she had the house with basement built in 1925 (Bk.2637, p.576). After Dr. Wilkins death, Mrs. Wilkins had the house winterized and lived there until her death in 1968. The administrator for her estate (the lease had expired and two additional 50 ft. strips acquired) sold to Stephen and David Woodbury in 1972. Stephen occupied the house until 1976, since which time it has been rented.

#170 HAVERHILL ROAD (See Map 9)

This two story house was built originally at #15 Central Street for Dr. Laurent Bouchard by Ovide Bouchard in 1948. When the Telephone Company needed more space to expand the growing service, the house was removed to Haverhill Road in 1970. Occupied by several families for short periods, it was bought by Terry and Gail Sunderland in 1977 (Bk.6406, p.391). They were still living there in 1983.

#173 HAVERHILL ROAD (See Map 9)

On this property, near the northwest corner, may be seen the partial remains of a cellar excavation on which stood the house referred to in John Towne's article as the Silas Deland house. To quote, "This one story house with brick basement was originally the school-house erected for the town in 1795, on the Common near the meeting-house. In 1845 it was sold to William G. Lake and by him sold to E. Sumner Bixby who had it removed to its present location and remodeled into a

dwelling-house. It was successively occupied by Daniel Spiller, William Blanchard and Mrs. Elizabeth Deland."

Mrs. Deland died in 1901 and her son, Silas, was taxed on a dwelling-house, a barn and a cottage, together with five acres of land. Silas died in 1922, and Otto Lake acquired the property which was assessed to him in 1923 with an increase of 50% over the 1892 value on the house, and nearly 300% on the camp.

Before he died, Silas Deland leased a strip of land to George Frame for forty years, on which the house #167 was built, and Otto Lake, as successor to Deland, confirmed the lease when Mrs. Wilkins bought it.

Otto Lake gave his daughter, Alice, a fifty foot strip at the southerly end and built a camp at the northerly end before selling the central portion, together with the house and barn, to Fannie Mattson of Salem, in 1927. In 1928, Mattson was assessed for the house, barn and two camps, but none were occupied year-round.

Alfred A. Mattson, started living in the camp in 1959 and rented the Deland house to Omer E. Fontaine for a couple of years, after which it was torn down. Mattson, a clock repairman in Salem, died in 1967, and Charles Brent Roeder acquired the property in 1969. Mr. Roeder is a real estate broker in Topsfield.

#175 HAVERHILL ROAD (See Map 9)

This one story house overlooking Hood's Pond was built as a camp, probably by Silas Deland, as Otto Lake was assessed for it the year he bought the Deland House. Otto lived in the house at the corner of Main and Park Streets but kept this camp until his death in 1929. After World War II, his daughter Alice had it winterized and made her home there after retiring from her long years of registered nursing. She died in 1972, and her brother's son, Harry Lake of Centerville, Cape Cod, came into possession. His daughter was living there in 1983.

(INTERSECTION WITH POND STREET)

#192 HAVERHILL ROAD

This one story house, invisible from the road, was built for Rudolf Dick, retired head of the Naumkeag Mills in Salem, in 1971. It overlooks an artificial pond created beside Pye Brook when the extensive sand pit was excavated for commercial use. This pond became a resting place for sea gulls until the Topsfield dump was abandoned and a land fill operation substituted. (See #202 Haverhill Road.)

#202 HAVERHILL ROAD

This one story house was built in 1901 for Johnson L. Walker. In 1923 he was assessed for the house, the farm house at #205 Haverhill Road, barn, poultry house, pump-house, ice house and carriage house. In 1925 Mabel J. Walker sold 90 acres to Dr. Benjamin Ragel, who put the property into his wife, Margurite's, name. They used it as a summer home and sold to Rudolf Dick, head of the Naumkeag Mills in Salem, when he retired in 1947 (Bk.3307, p.104). Mr. Dick lived there for twenty one years. He sold a large amount of sand for commercial use, lowering the grade more than twenty feet in some places, and formed a hollow, which he had connected to Pye Brook to form a shallow pond (see #192). As a widower, in 1968, he built and moved into #192 Haverhill Road.

In 1969, J. Richard Relick bought #202 and two lots of land. His family moved from Parsonage Lane and continued on there while Mr. Relick was stationed in Europe on business. In 1980 the Relicks moved West and the house was sold to Richard R. Dickinson, formerly of High Street, Topsfield.

The garage, close to the house, but on a lower level, was probably built while Dick owned the property. The house now at #216 may have been a combined garage and chauffeur's residence when Walker first lived there.

(INTERSECTION WITH LINEBROOK ROAD)

#205 HAVERHILL ROAD (See Map 9)

"This two and a half story house was built for Elbridge Sumner Bixby, in 1837." Mr. Towne did not give any information on the house between 1837 and 1901 when Charles

G. Cotton was given as the owner. The 1892 Valuation shows Cotton as owner of 70 ½ acres inclusive of land on both sides of the road. The 1908 Valuation shows Charles Steel(e) owner of 80 acres which he sold the following year to Johnson L. Walker (Bk.1954, p.54). Walker had the property surveyed and the plan is recorded (Plan Bk.17, P1.41) The house is shown as L-shaped, with a shed attached at an angle, and a barn across Haverhill Road very close to where the driveway now enters #202.

Mr. Walker had the house at #202 built, which he occupied, and used #205 as the quarters for his farm help. The 1923 Valuation puts \$1,000 on the farm house, \$1,000 on the barn and \$10,000 on his new house, so it would appear that the farm house was not in very good condition.

In 1925 Mrs. Mabel J. Walker sold 90 acres with the buildings to Dr. Benjamin Ragel of Boston, who used the house at #202 for a summer residence and #205 for his help. During the mid-30's Harold T.D. Fletcher and his wife, Florence, occupied #205. During World War II their daughter-in-law, Agnes, joined them.

Dr. Ragel put the property in his wife, Margurite's, name. In 1928 he accompanied Adm. Byrd on his expedition to the Antarctic. After his death his wife sold the property at #205 in 1957 to Robert Reagon of Saugus. At that time there were four and one quarter acres, parts of which extended into Boxford and Ipswich.

In 1976, two attorneys, McCarthy and Johnson, occupied the house, and in 1978 it was acquired by Dr. Hamilton R. Hayes, following which extensive repairs and renovations were made. The driveway now enters from Linebrook Road, and the garage doors face the east. The current owner (1983) is Nickolas Metcalf.

In HC Vol.XXIX p.51, there is a long account of the house that formerly stood on this property dating back to 1733. It was burned in an incendiary fire in 1859, having been vacant for many years. The Hayes converted the old cellar hole into a swimming pool.

Commentary: It is interesting to note that the barn, referred to as being approximately where the driveway enters to #202, was very close to the edge of Haverhill Road. It appears

from the article, just mentioned, that the area had been occupied since the 1700's, so this barn undoubtedly was facing on the road now known as Linebrook Road before Haverhill Road was extended northwesterly from Pond Street in 1835.

Houses numbered 208 and higher were built after 1962.

#216 HAVERHILL ROAD

This two story house was originally a shop or outbuilding on the property of Johnson L. Walker, who built the house at #202 in 1909. In 1952 Dr. Mayne, son-in-law of Rudolf Dick who had acquired the Walker property, remodeled the building into a dwelling house and lived in it until it was sold in 1967 to George W. Dyer, optometrist, whose family still occupied in 1983.

HIGH STREET

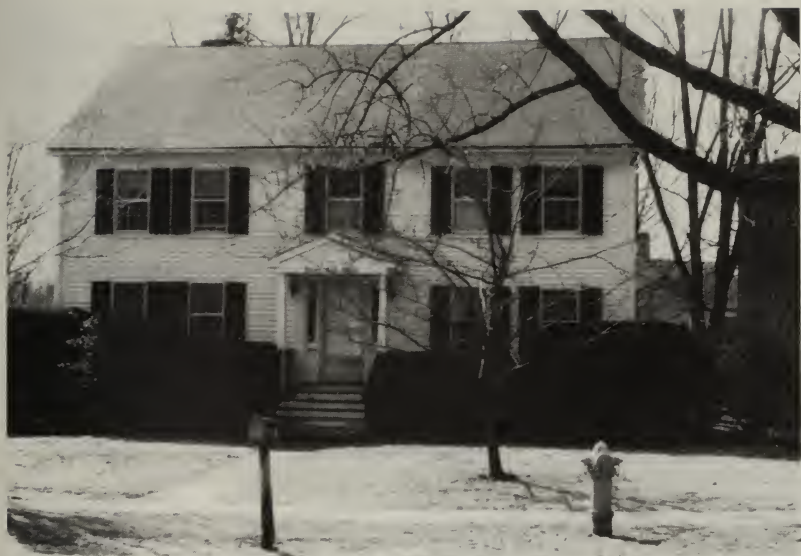
#11 HIGH STREET

This two story house, according to Sidney Perley, "was probably built for Jacob Kimball, Jr. in 1756. He was a blacksmith." (Note: In this house was born in 1761, Jacob Kimball, who was graduated at Harvard College in 1780, practiced law at Amherst, N.H., and was noted as a composer of vocal music. He was the author of "Rural Harmony" 1793 and "Essex Harmony" 1800." He died in the Almshouse. There is a picture of in HC Vol. VII, pg. 134. The quote is from that volume.)

Moses Wildes, Jr., who followed the same blacksmith trade, bought one-half of the house and lot in 1808, and five years later the other half. The property remained in the Wildes name until the death of Moses Wildes in 1889.

In 1892 the house was assessed to Esther W. Hutchins. She was the wife of Urban Hutchins, who died in 1875, and mother of Arthur U. Esther died in 1902 and the property was assessed to Emily, wife of Arthur, in 1908.

The property, originally on Main Street, was acquired by the Town in 1910 for the location of a monument as yet to be modeled*, and George Francis Dow bought the house,



11 High Street.



14 High Street.

moving the ell portion to #17 High Street and the house to #11 where it was renovated. Over the years considerable changes have been made. It is now owned by the Topsfield Congregational Church and has been used as a parsonage.

**The Civil War Memorial was designed by A. T. Merrill, see #6 School Avenue and H. 230 and 453.*

#14 HIGH STREET

This two and a half story house was built by Myron Peabody for Chester and Ursula Williams in 1947 on land acquired from the Benjamin Hodges estate. Chester was the son of Henry B. Williams, who owned the Bare Hill Farm at #118 Main Street, and brother of Ida Hodges. The lot on which it was built was called the Over-brook field, as it was the only portion of the Hodges Estate separated from the balance by Great Hill Brook. Ursula lived there until 1976, aged 86. Alan S. and Dorothy Downing acquired the property in 1978 and are residing there.

#17 HIGH STREET

This two story house was the ell portion of the Hutchins house that stood approximately where the Civil War Memorial was erected in 1914. For its early history see #11 High Street. Before it was moved, the Hutchins house was assessed for \$1,800; after it was separated from #11 High Street, it was assessed for \$3,000. #17 was assessed only \$1,200, probably indicative of the relative amount of work done on the two after arrival on their respective sites. Some of the documented owners have been Norman and Gerry Nickerson, who sold to Robert and Ann Hardy in 1946. They stayed until 1967. Present owners and occupiers are William and Marcia Cini.

#21 HIGH STREET

This two story house, according to Clarissa Glazier, HC Vol III, p.30, was built on land bought by Rev. Kinsman Atkinson, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1849. Atkinson graduated from Harvard College in 1834 and for five years preached from Congregational pulpits, but in 1843 he changed his views of church government and joined the M.E. church. While stationed in town, he hired the Topsfield



17 High Street.



21 High Street.

Academy building and taught one term of eleven weeks. The church trustees took on the work of constructing the parsonage and hired John H. Potter to complete the house, which was not finished until near the end of the second year of Atkinson's pastorate.

The Methodist church federated with the Congregational Church in 1925, but the parsonage was still assessed to the Methodists as late as 1935. In 1941 L. Palmer Lavallee and his mother took occupancy. He was a landscape architect. He served on the Park Commission for many years and remained in this house until his death in 1979. The house was ninety years old when he acquired it and he renovated it. The present resident owners are David and Rebecca Randall.

#23 HIGH STREET

"This one story house" according to John Towne, "was originally a shoe shop built for Charles Herrick in 1837 and standing where the large Herrick shop is now (1901) located. In 1850 it was removed to the site of the small shop to make room for the new shop, and remodeled by Jacob Foster, the following year, at its present location. Its present (1901) owner, Henry W. Lake, has also remodeled it somewhat." The Herrick Shoe shops were located at what is now (1983) #27-29 Main Street.

Henry Lake died in 1910 and his widow, Mary Ann, in 1921, the house passing to their unmarried daughter, Lizzie P., who taught piano, and continued to live there until 1955. She died in Ipswich at the age of 92.

In 1958, Myron Peabody, Jr., a building contractor, renovated it for his family and lived there for eight years when Francis and Priscilla Mather, of Marblehead, acquired title. Next, Robert V. and Susan Reece acquired it in 1974, but stayed only four years. After a brief vacancy, Kenneth and Deborah Crocker acquired title and reside there. Mr. Crocker is a pilot.

A far cry from 1837! Two families for 118 years; four in 28!

#27 HIGH STREET

Town of Topsfield — Fire Station. At a June 15, 1965



23 High Street in 1900.



23 High Street in 1989.

Town Meeting, a Municipal Services Building Committee was voted and after four years of study and reports, the 1969 Town Meeting finally voted to build a new Fire Station on Town owned property, thus making the old fire station on School Avenue available for expansion of the Highway Department facilities. In 1970 the new station was completed and occupied. In 1941 the Equipment Building, housing both the Fire Department and the Highway Department, was built for less than \$8,500.00. In 1970 the Fire Station alone cost over \$94,000.00. An upstairs meeting room in the School Avenue building is used by the American Legion.

#31 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

Quoting JHT, "this two story house was built in 1829 for Moses and Solomon Wildes, trustees for Mrs. Rachel, widow of Col. Ephraim Wildes of Boston, but she did not live to occupy it. Prof. Francis Vose, the first principal of the Topsfield Academy, was its first occupant, living here in 1830 to 1831." Towne does not give anything further except to list it as owned by J. Fremont Perkins.

Perkins traces back to one of the first settlers of Topsfield. He married Carrie Glazier of Topsfield, whose mother was a Towne. They were married in 1879, and probably bought this house about that time. It was assessed to him in 1892 together with a barn and wood shed. In 1905 it was assessed to Carrie, and J. Fremont assessed only for a poll at Central Street. They had two children, Ralph and Bessie, who were assessed for it jointly in 1944.

Bessie taught school in the old Academy building after it was taken over as the town's school. She was of the old school type of disciplinarian who used rattan to maintain order, but everyone, after graduation, felt she was the best teacher in the school. When she started, teachers were getting eight dollars a week. By 1935 she received the munificent sum of \$1,600 per year. When she retired in 1950 to Cape Cod, she is reported to have been unhappy with the remuneration for 43 years of service to her native town.

Mario D. Banus, Ph.D., a chemical engineer, bought the property next and lived there with his family until 1971; then title was acquired by Robert L. and Susan Winship who reside there.



31 High Street.



32 High Street.

This is the most easterly house on the southerly side of High Street that falls within the Historic District, subject to approval before any exterior alterations may be made.

#32 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

"In the rising ground in the field below the present house," according to JHT, "formerly stood a small two story house which was taxed to Jacob Towne as early as 1774. The present house (1901) was built in the fall of 1815. The barn was built in 1810. Jacob Towne and his son, J. Perkins Towne, were town clerks of Topsfield from 1810 to 1878 and the latter was clerk of the Congregational parish for 50 years. The town records were kept in this house for 70 years."

The Hodges family acquired the property about 1870. Benjamin Hodges died January 12, 1879, but his name appears in the 1892 Valuation list, presumably a son of the same name, and a daughter (?) Mary C. Hodges was assessed for \$12,000 cash but no property.

Benjamin Jr. had a son, Mark, born in 1892, who grew up here and married Ida E. Williams (see #118 Main Street). JHT gives the owner of the property in 1902 as Mary R. Hodges, while the 1908 Valuation list has the name Maria R. Hodges. She was still on the books as owner in 1928. Maria died in 1930, and Mark and Ida moved into the house at #118 Main Street. For many years the house on High Street stood idle until John T. Northey bought it in 1946, along with the land that was to be developed as Towne Hill Lane. Extensive renovations had to be made inside and most of the out buildings removed.

John T. Northey is an artist in Topsfield. In 1962 he returned to his former home on Prospect Street and sold the High Street property to the Topsfield Building Trust, which cut up the land and sold the house to Dorman Burley of Boxford, in the newspaper business. In 1966 James R. Peacock of Weymouth took possession. In 1978 Robert V. and Susan Reece moved in from #23 High Street and are the resident owners. The house is within the Topsfield Historic District.

#35 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

"This two story house" JHT writes, "was built for J. Perkins Towne in 1843-4 as a residence for Rev. Anson McLoud. When Rev. McLoud first came to Topsfield in 1841 he lived in the house owned and occupied by J. Perkins Towne. In 1898-9 it was remodeled somewhat by the 1902 owner Greenleaf T. Metcalf."

Metcalf acquired the property (Bk.1565, p.157) and sold to Maria Hodges (Bk.1762, p.327) in 1904. Maria Hodges and her son, Benjamin D., sold to Alice Tidd in 1909 (Bk.1972, p.467-470) several parcels involved.

Alice Tidd was assessed for the house and one half acre of land in 1924, and sold the house and land to Charles Wilkins of Topsfield in 1926, who renovated into two apartments. Wilkins was assessed for the house and one quarter acre in 1928. He died in 1941 and his five daughters were assessed for it in 1944. Gertrude Wilkins had married Clarence Castle and they made it their home until 1978. Dorman Burley of Boxford acquired title in 1978 for investment property.

(INTERSECTION WITH TOWNE LANE)

#38 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

"This one story house was originally the Jacob Averill house and located at the 'Colleges'*. It was afterwards used as a carpenter's shop. It was bought by J. Perkins Towne and Samuel Todd and removed to its present location, where it was remodeled into a dwelling-house by Charles C. Brackett and first occupied by Nathaniel Perkins, Jr., who bought the house in 1841."

**The area easterly of the Steward School. HC Vol. II, p.84 Geterude Bradstreet wrote in 1896, "This evidently was the centre of the settlement, for here lived those men who were conspicuous in town affairs, and whose broader education placed them in a slightly higher rank than the others, giving the locality the name of 'The Colleges'".*

In 1892 it was assessed to Henry E. Herrick whose daughter, Lucy McLeod, sold it in 1908 to Susie Thayer of Boston Street (see #267 Boston Street) (Bk.1907, p.533). Susie rented it over the years to various families, including Chester

and Ursula Williams (see #14 High Street) and in 1958 her niece, Doris Frost and her husband, Oscar, moved in. The Frost's occupied it until 1977. Guy Rizza bought it in 1977 and put it into a Family Trust in 1979.

#39 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

JHT writes, "This one story house was built for Miss Eliza Bradstreet in the spring of 1844 by Calvin Putnam of Danvers. (See HC Vol.I, pg. 30 for account of her trial for arson.) In 1846 she married Silas Cockrane, harness-maker, and the house was long known by his name." Their daughter, Sarah, married Francis Hadley. In 1886 she sold to Isabella MacCormack (Bk.1225, p.441). Isabella and her husband, James, had a son, John, and a daughter, Edith M.. Edith acquired half interest in the property in 1923 and bought her brother's share in 1933 (Bk. 2946, p.58). Her husband, William S. Andrews, died in 1942. She continued to live here until 1960 with her daughter, Helen Gerry, a widow since 1919 (George A. Gerry died in the collapse of the molasses tower in Boston). Helen held the property until 1971 when the present residents, Wayne A. and Penny Rogers, of Marblehead, bought the property.

#43 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Frederick Stiles in 1844-5 by Charles C. Brackett. A two story shoe shop, that formerly stood a short distance easterly from the house, was built in 1869 and in 1885 was removed across the street and placed in the rear of the Ruth Perley house, where it was remodeled and used as a laundry and store-house. February 26, 1892 it was destroyed by fire, the barn being destroyed at the same time."

To get back to #43, Mr. Stiles lost his wife in 1885, and in 1892 he was taxed only as a poll. Towne did not give successive owner except to call the house the Towne-Stiles house. Probably it was Sarah P. Towne, who was assessed in 1892 and 1908 for several parcels and houses on High Street. She died in 1917. At one time Deacon Charles J. Peabody owned. In 1944 Clayton Parker was in possession when he had the land partitioned and sold the house to Mary Jane and

Francis N. Carter, Insurance Agent, who had lived at various places in Topsfield before buying. Present resident owners are Robert L. and Susan G. Lord. Susan Lord is the daughter of Francis and Mary Jane Carter, and follows in her father's footsteps as an insurance broker.

#44 HIGH STREET

"This two story house," according to JHT, "originally a small cottage, was built for Mrs. Elizabeth Waitt in 1829. It was remodeled and raised to two stories in 1882 by William Morgan for Mrs. Elizabeth (Waitt) Perley. The present (1902) two story building in the rear was erected in 1892 by H. H. Roberts. The small building next to the Agge driveway was originally Waitt's shoe shop and stood on its present location. In 1872 it was remodeled and used for a dwelling by Dwight L. Boyden."

In 1908 Miss Ruth Perley, daughter of Elizabeth, was assessed for both houses and a store. At some point she appears to have sold it to the Lynn Home for Aged Women, as the Home sold it the year after her death in 1919 to Leroy Smerage. Smerage married Anne Mellish in 1905, daughter of a Methodist minister, who lived there with his five daughters (all musical) and a son. Smerage was listed as of Chicago when assessed for it from 1923-35. In 1936 Smerage sold the property to Ernest Pace, son of Albert Pace (see #96 High Street). Alex and Ruth Houston rented it briefly from Pace, who made it over into two apartments, living in one and renting one to William T. Gamble's family. The present (1983) owner is Marion Peck, who bought it in 1979. Warren Giovannacci is believed to have owned it from 1955 to 1973.

#47 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

This one story house was built by Clayton Parker in 1944. Walter F. and Helen Arlington lived there until 1953, and sold to Allan W. Shaw (Bk.3964, p.46). The Shaws held for ten years and in 1964 Robert Means of Boxford acquired title (Bk.5164, p.104), which he turned over to his grandson, James Peirce, in 1974, and, he, in turn, to his mother, Anne (Means) Peirce, in 1978.

#48 HIGH STREET

This house was built in 1861 by Jacob Foster for Isaac Newton Averell and his second wife, Mary Wilson. The land on which it stands had been in the Averell name since the eighteenth century. In 1892 Isaac was only assessed for his personal property, and the house, barn and half acre were assessed to estate of his mother, Sally, who had died in 1873. In 1901 J.H. Towne called it a one story house in the name of Edward E. Ferguson, but in 1908 it was assessed to Mary Alvinia (Andrews) Ferguson, his wife, a sister of Isabelle Ford (see #24 Ipswich Road).

Extensive remodeling was done to the house in 1908, and presumably that was when it was raised to two stories and the stable, garage and poultry house, which appear in later assessments, were added. In 1941 Mrs. Ferguson died and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Smith inherited the property which she still occupies (1983) with her granddaughter, Donna Jaquith Johnson.

Elizabeth, aged 98: her mother an Andrews, had ten brothers!

(INTERSECTION WITH SUMMER STREET)

#51 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

This two story house was built about 1909 by Henry Follansbee Long, Tax Commissioner for the Commonwealth for many years, and was assessed to his wife, Margaret. She continued to live there after Mr. Long's death in 1956, and then rented the property for some years. In 1975 it was conveyed to her daughter, Catherine (Cay) Long Torrey, and granddaughters, Diane Bufalino and Lucinda. In 1981 Diane acquired full title (Bk.6372, p.787) and resides there.

#54 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

"This one story house" according to JHT, "was built for its present (1902) owner in 1892, by Henry H. Roberts, and a large addition was made in 1896 by the same carpenter." The property appears in the 1908 Valuation under the name of William Agge, of Salem, whom Towne gives as owner in 1902. In 1923 and 1935 it was assessed to Anna A. Agge et

al, together with a studio. In 1944 the owners were listed as Anna, Emily and Cathrina Agge of Salem.

About 1950 to 1954 John P. Mosher, lumber merchant, owned the property. Then it was occupied by Charles H. Pinkham for three years until 1958, when Stanley M. Cohen of Cambridge took title. In 1978 Robert L. Chew of Amherst took title. No major changes since. This house sits high on the hill and is not visible from the street.

#62 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Rev. Anson McLoud in 1861 by Charles Treadwell of Ipswich. Rev. McLoud was settled over the Congregational Society from 1841-1869. He was living in this house at the time of his death, February 21, 1883." See HC Vol.III, pg 37.

Andrew L. Peirce took title in 1891 and lived there until his death in 1929. His widow survived only a short time and the property was bought by Herman Balentine in 1931. The Balentine's arranged an apartment in the northerly part of the house which they rented. Balantine and his wife, Catherine, lived there until 1953, when it was sold to Donald B. Webber (the Balantines moved into the Gleason house at #78 High Street.)

At one time it was owned by the Plummer sisters (Elizabeth and Amelia) and operated as a nursing home for a few years. It is now divided into apartments and called the Appleton Apartments. The present owner is Guy Rizza.

#65 HIGH STREET (See Map 8)

This two story house built on the hillside below the road was assessed to Constance Shrigley of Salem in the 1923 Valuation List. In the 1928 listing it was assessed to Benjamin B. Towne, a descendant of at least three of the first families to settle in Topsfield. When first married in 1923, the Towne's lived in the Chester Long house at #40 South Main Street. Mr. Towne died in 1967 and his widow, Jeanette (Gleason) Towne, conveyed the property to her children, Jane and Benjamin Jr., and moved to Concord, N.H. in 1979, when Robert F. and Marie Marquis acquired title.

Mr. Towne served as Commissioner of Trust Funds and

on the Finance Committee for 30 years and was Clerk of the Congregational Church for 29 years. He was the son of John H. Towne.

#71 HIGH STREET

This bungalow was built about 1912 for James Hale, Clerk of the Court in Salem, and was assessed to his wife, Grace, in 1923. In 1931 Charles Peck of the United Shoe Company in Beverly (father of Caroline Peck Foye) bought the property and lived there with his family until his death in 1958. Walter Davey occupied the house for three years. In 1962 Dominick and Grace DiBenedetto acquired the property and Grace is listed as the owner and resident.

#72 HIGH STREET

JHT writes, "This one story house was built by Francis Curtis in 1875 for his own occupancy." Curtis died in 1900. His second wife, Julia Ann (Dodge), lived there until 1926 with a daughter and her husband and family (Merrill).

In 1928 Linwood P. Balentine was assessed at a considerable increase in value, probably partly due to improvements and partly because Mrs. Curtis received a low assessment as a widow. Louise Balentine, his wife, died in 1942, and he remarried in 1943. Mr. Balentine died in 1957 and his widow, Elsie Louise, in 1963. The house had been used as a two family dwelling for some years, and the John Tobey family continued on after Mrs. Balentine's death. Linwood's step-brother, Herman, moved from #78 High Street, but died early in 1966. Herman's wife, Catherine, moved to Washington Street when the house was left to a nephew, Alvah Balentine. The house was sold in 1982 to Guy Rizza and it is used now as rental property.

#78 HIGH STREET (See Map 3)

"This two story house was built for Daniel Perkins in 1848 by Charles C. Brackett. Jacob Foster, who built many houses in town, worked on this house as an apprentice."

Daniel died in 1862 and his wife, Charlotte Towne, in 1880, leaving the house to their two daughters, Clara and Charlotte A. Perkins. Clara never married, but lived to be 96.



78 High Street in 1900.



78 High Street in 1989.

Charlotte married George Gleason, whose son, Leroy, occupied the house all of his married life. Leroy owned considerable land by 1944, but he was one of nine heirs to the house, so it would appear that his mother did not leave a will. After Leroy's wife, Florence Morey, died in 1956, Herman and Catherine Balentine lived with him for a number of years, until his death in 1966. Edward R. Pederson, of Beverly, acquired title in 1966 and rents out an apartment. He and his wife, Marjorie, are the resident owners.

NOTE: JHT adds the following information about a building that formerly stood on this site. "Nearly upon the same site formerly stood the famous Topsfield Hotel, built in 1803-04 for the Boston and Newburyport Turnpike Corporation. At this hotel was held the famous Topsfield Caucus in 1808; here was organized the confederation of County Lyceums in 1829, and the Essex County Natural History Society, from which grew the Essex Institute, and the Peabody Academy of Science was organized here in 1834. The hotel became the stage-center of Essex County and in its parlors were held many political and social gatherings. In August 1844, the building was taken down and moved by Tapley of Danvers, to the beach at Clifton where it was rebuilt substantially as before. The new owners were Joseph Bassett, shoe manufacturer, and William Fabens, lawyer, both residents of Marblehead. It was rented as a summer resort, various attractions being maintained to draw the public to the spot. During the season a steamer made regular trips to and from Boston, landing the passengers in boats, no wharf having been built. The venture was not a financial success and January 1, 1846 the building was totally destroyed by fire under somewhat suspicious circumstances. A cut-glass decanter, containing a little brandy, was the only thing saved by the man in charge." See Hurd's History of Essex Co. p.LXI , also Essex Institute Hist. Colls. Vol. 19 pg. 226 and HC Vol.IV, p.198.

(INTERSECTION WITH ROUTE 1)

#86 HIGH STREET (See Map 3)

This two story house was listed by JHT in 1902, under Boston Street. It was assessed to John H. Dodge, shoe cutter, in 1892. His second marriage took place in 1866 to Mary J. Perkins. The house dates from that time. The driveway, presently, is off of Boston Street. (See #104 High Street, sixth paragraph.)

In 1923 the house was assessed to Albert M. Dodge, son of John. In 1928 it was assessed to Lytton P. Chandler; in 1944 to Alice Chandler, but they do not appear to have been year-round residents. In 1947 Wilfred Desmarais bought it and lived there until moving to Ipswich Road in 1956. At that time Alcott and Laura Stover acquired the property and are the resident owners.

NOTE: About halfway between the Turnpike and Woodbriar Road on the southwest side of High Street there was a one story house at the time John Towne was writing, which he states, "was built by Daniel Willey, carpenter, in 1845 for his own occupancy." In 1902 it was owned by Mrs. Caroline E. Carswell, but by 1908 it had disappeared from the tax list. The cellar hole was visible for some years, but with the development of business property facing the Turnpike, it has been graded out.

#96 HIGH STREET (See Map 3)

JHT writes of this house, "built for its present (1902) owner (Albert Pace) in 1885 by John H. Potter. In the rear of this house is a willow tree, planted in 1836, which marks the geographical center of Essex County." Note: the willow tree was replaced by the Topsfield Historical Society but dug out when young John Bell built his home at #98 in 1978. The owner at that time was Albert W. Pace, who lived there until his death in 1924.

In 1927 Conrad Tronerud, manager of the James Duncan Phillips estate on Hill Street, bought the house and rented it until 1955, after which he and his wife made it their home

for twelve years, and his widow until her death in 1985. The house was left to John C. Bell, grandson of Albert Pace. The current resident owner is Jane Bell Englehardt, a granddaughter.

The main house is one and one-half stories, with a one story ell stretching out to the rear, probably an addition later than 1885. For additional information on the Pace family, see #104 High Street.

#104 HIGH STREET (See Map 3)

This property is the key to the development and history of several of the houses from this location to the Turnpike. To get the picture it is necessary to get into the family history of Thomas Perkins, son of Elisha and husband of Elizabeth W. Merrill. They had five daughters born in Topsfield and a son whose birth is not recorded here.

Born 1837, Mary Jane married first Daniel Smith, second, John H. Dodge. (See #86 High Street.)

Born 1845, Annah married Benjamin Bray in 1864.

Born 1846, Abbie E. married Stephen Pierce in 1863.

Born 1853, Carrie married Dudley P. Towne.

Born 1855, Ella Maria married Albert W. Pace.

Let's start with the third one, Abbie Pierce, since she lived on the site of #104. JHT writes, "this two story house was built for the present owner (1902) in 1898 by Charles A. Peterson of Hamilton. On a part of the same site formerly stood a two story house which was taken down to make way for the present house. It was built in 1785 for Elisha Perkins and had remained in the Perkins name until very recently." So we find Abbie living on the site of her grandfather's house one hundred fifteen years later.

Next, working back toward the Turnpike, we find Ella Maria Pace had a house (#96) built in 1885. The Paces had two sons before moving in, and two sons and a daughter afterwards. The youngest son, born in 1892, Ernest, served in World War I and came home to live his life in Topsfield. (See #44 High Street.) Ernest's daughter, Priscilla, married William Gamble and lives on Colerain Road.

Now Thomas, the father of these five girls, died in 1865, before Ella Maria and Carrie were married, so Elizabeth Per-

kins, not a sister, was appointed their guardian. As such, she sold their interest in a parcel of land adjoining land of J. H. Dodge, their brother-in-law, who had married Mary Jane. This parcel was conveyed to Mary Jane Dodge and does not appear to have any frontage on High Street, but by means of the abutters names, can be located somewhat northwest of the Pace lot at #96.

The 1880 County Atlas shows a house about three or four hundred feet southeast of the Turnpike with the name J. H. Dodge, and no house at the corner. In 1892 J. H. Dodge was assessed \$800 for a house on one-quarter acre which would appear to be that shown in the Atlas. In the 1908 Valuation listing he is called of Boston Street, and is assessed on one and one-half acres, but no house, while his wife, Mary Jane, was assessed for a dwelling house and barn on a two acre lot; her address, Boston Street. (See #86 High Street.)

Having reviewed the Perkins family's partitioning of Elisha's holdings, let's return to #104 High Street. Stephen Pierce survived his wife and died in 1911. They had a son, Thomas Allen Pierce, whose death was recorded in 1946, but he appears to have sold the High Street property to Peter Anderson sometime before 1921. In the 1944 Valuation the property is assessed to Anderson's wife, Margaret, who stayed on until the house was sold to David McCoubrey in 1958.

The McCoubreys only stayed until 1960, when the house was turned over to Lois Crane, Guidance Counsellor, who lived here during her retirement years, and rented out an apartment until her death in 1980. As of 1980 the present house was 82 years old on a site occupied nearly two hundred years.

(INTERSECTION WITH CENTRAL STREET AND PERKINS ROW)

#153-177 HIGH STREET

All the odd numbered houses in this area were built on lots partitioned by Nicholas and John D'Agostino, starting in 1955.

#192 HIGH STREET

This one story house, not visible from the road, was built by H. Keith Morgan, an engineer, in 1951. His wife, Marjory Anderson, lived at #104 High Street before their marriage. They occupied for a few years until his business took him abroad, and the house has been leased ever since. The large lot was part of the Thomas Proctor holdings prior to 1949.

(IPSWICH RIVER)

In the intersection of High Street with the Valley Road, before the latter was built, a house is shown on the Philander Anderson map of 1830, bearing the name of M. Patch, but J. H. Towne makes no mention of it in his 1902 volume.

HC Vol.VIII, pg. 20 gives a long description of houses that formerly stood where High Street has a bend near the top of the grade, southeasterly side.

#268 HIGH STREET

This one and one-half story house was built for use as a caretaker's cottage, probably about 1925, by Mr. A. Vaughn (see #278 High Street). The Hagar's came to work for the Vaughn's in 1943. When the estate was cut up into house lots in 1974, the Hagar's bought the house. Philip E. Hagar still resides there.

#277 HIGH STREET

This one story cottage was built by Ichabod F. Atwood as a guest house "where there was a good breeze". The house is rented now by his widow, Gertrude S. Atwood.

#278 HIGH STREET

This two and one half story house was not mentioned in Towne's article of 1902, but it seems probable that it was in existence by that time. In 1904, Dr. Niles of Lynn, had it removed from the level area near the road and placed on top of the hill. In 1908 he was assessed for the house, a stable and a hen house, plus various parcels of land. The 1923 Valuation list does not include it, but it is believed to have been held by a bank for whom one Soule, as agent, sold it that year to Ethel Vaughn of Melrose. In 1928 she was

assessed for the house, a farm house and barn, garage, the hen house (upgraded to poultry house), corn barn, ice house and pump house.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn held the property and added to it over the fifty years of ownership, but never appear in the street listing, as they kept their legal residence in Melrose. Phil Hagar came to Topsfield in 1943 and served as gardener and caretaker until 1974, when the property was partitioned, at which time he bought the house and two acres at #268 High Street.

In 1973, James T. and Bonny J. Boosales of Wenham occupied the house. In 1977 Dr. James R. Brown acquired title and still resides there.

#279 HIGH STREET

John H. Towne writes, "this two story house was built for Jacob A. Towne in 1857 by John H. Potter, the old one story house which formerly stood partly upon the same site and nearer the road, being taken down the same year."

Jacob Adden Towne and his wife, Sarah Peabody, had eight children over a twenty-six year period, but it appears to have been harder on him, as he died in 1881 and she lived on at this house until 1917. Archer Allen Towne was the next to youngest, born in 1867, and he continued to live here, unmarried, until the estate was sold to Ichabod F. Atwood in 1924. Mrs. Towne was assessed for the house, a barn, wagon house, shed, hen house and other property in Topsfield.

Mr. Atwood closed in a porch on the south side of the house and had two bedrooms added upstairs. A blacksmith shop toward the rear was converted to a family room, and the wagon house to a garage. He added considerably to the area of the farm, which is now in excess of 130 acres with frontage on the Ipswich River opposite the Fairgrounds.

The bungalow at #269 was built sometime after 1935, but before World War II. The house at #287 High Street was built for the farm help, probably shortly after he acquired the original house, but the farm has not been operated as such for some years. Mr. Atwood, a banker, came from Malden and lived to be 101 years of age. Mrs. Gertrude Atwood, a lawyer, was his second wife and still resides there.

NOTE: Jacob A. Towne's middle name appears usually as 'Adden' but once in the vital records as 'Alden'. He was the husband of Sarah Peabody. J. Arthur Towne, 1848-1920 married Susan Annabel in 1869.

#286 HIGH STREET

"The Caroline H. Towne house," according to John H. Towne, "was built for Benjamin Towne in 1846 by Daniel Willey." He does not locate it except by juxtaposition between the one just above and the Mary E. Towne house which is on Wenham Road. It probably was about opposite the house now numbered #287 High Street.

Caroline Towne was a sister of Benjamin, who died in 1888, and of Elisha, who died in 1895. Elisha was assessed for a house in 1892 which probably is the one that, by 1902, was called Caroline's. From the fact that #278 was not mentioned in Towne's article it seems probable that the house Dr. Niles moved in 1904 up on the hill was the Caroline H. Towne house, built in 1846.

HILL STREET

#1 HILL STREET (See Map 2)

This house was listed as on Salem Road in John H. Towne's article. "Two story, built for John Balch, and taxed to him as early as 1769. By a deed dated September 2, 1771, John Balch conveyed to his son, John Balch, Jr. the western half of his new house, and some time afterwards the eastern half was conveyed to his son, Roger Balch, who was taxed for it in 1776. In 1809 the eastern part of the house was taxed to Perley Balch, son of Roger, and so continued until his death, which occurred May 2, 1858. The property afterwards passed to the present (1902) owner, Benjamin J. Balch. Perley Balch, Jr., for many years a successful teacher in the city of Lowell, was born here April 27, 1809."

Benjamin Balch died in 1912 and the house passed to Franklin, his son, who served the town at various times as Assessor, School Committee member, Trustee of the Library, Commissioner of Trust Funds, Selectman, and for many years,



1 Hill Street.



105 Hill Street.

Town Moderator.

In 1954 Charles and Rosalie (Lee) Mann bought the property, and both became active in town affairs. They continued on for about eleven years and subsequently moved to Garden Street. From 1968-72 it was occupied by Donald R. and Ruth Humphreys of Marblehead, followed by Richard E. Seeger, also from Marblehead. The McAleers acquired it in 1982, moving from Grove Street.

(INTERSECTION WITH GARDEN STREET)

Approximately opposite the Garden Street intersection formerly stood the house which John H. Towne calls George F. Averell's. It was torn down after his widow died in 1931, and the land acquired by Richard Wheatland.

#65 HILL STREET (About)

Towne's description (Vol. VIII, p.21) is as follows, "This two story house was built for Daniel Towne, Jr., in 1846, by Isaiah M. Small. The cider mill was built in 1866 for Daniel Towne. Near the cider mill and on the easterly side, formerly stood a one story building which, until 1803, was the Archelaus Towne house and located off Boston Street opposite the Rea-Peirce estate. In 1803, it was purchased by the Emerson's and removed to this site and used as a dwelling-house. In it was born Samuel Bickford, July 31, 1809. It was taken down in 1857 and upon the same spot the present applehouse was built, for its present owner, in 1891. On the westerly side of the cider mill formerly stood the house of Stephen Towne, who was living here as early as 1704. April 3, 1782, the house and barn were purchased by David Balch, Jr., and were probably taken down at once as they do not appear upon the tax levy of the following year. This sixteen acre field was owned by Thomas Emerson in 1798, and in 1828 was sold by his heirs to Daniel Towne. In the broad field on top of the hill and northerly from the present house, in 1894, Mr. Averell uncovered, in the centre of the field, large stones placed in the form of a square as though used for a foundation, and a short distance away on clearing out a spring, now used to water cattle, he found that, at some time beyond recollection, it had been stoned up, the wall having been

buried, in the process of time some eighteen inches below the surface."

#68 HILL STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Daniel Towne, Sr., in 1815. An old two story house that was built for Ephraim Towne about 1750 and which was located in the field in front of the present house, was taken down about the same time." See HC Vol.VII, pg 87, line 9.

Daniel Towne, Jr. had a grandson, Frank Herbert, who inherited the house from his father, Sewell. On the street listing of 1957, the year he died at age 98, Frank is called 'farmer'. One never stops farming! Ira and Ethel (daughter) McLean kept house for Mr. Towne after his wife died in 1953, and stayed on until 1964. In 1965 Donald and Marie McKay, of Reading, bought the house and made improvements, then sold to John J. and Brenda Bright of New Hampshire. Mr. Bright died in 1976 and his widow conveyed to the Milton C. Weiler's in the following year. The Weiler's came from Winchester.

All the houses south of #68, with the exception of #101-103 and #120, were built after 1967 as part of the Meredith Hill development, or by Sidney Rosenthal the developer.

#101-103-105 HILL STREET

This complex of buildings, built in 1904 for David Pingree, of Salem, Massachusetts, included a stable-garage, a porters lodge (#103), and the two and one-half story mansion (#105). The stable and lodge were connected with sheds; the mansion is a short distance further back from the road surrounded by evergreens. Mr. Pingree conveyed the property to his nephew, Richard Wheatland, who was assessed for a number of buildings and some 136 acres in 1923, besides acreage in other parts of town.

The porter's lodge was occupied by Bernard Warren, who managed the property and drove for Mr. Wheatland, and later for David P. Wheatland (see Salem Road). Mrs. Wheatland, a widow of 8 years, died in 1962, and the property between Hill and Rowley Bridge Streets was sold to the Meredith

Mortgage Corporation in 1964.

Now Ralph Moxcey is owner of #101 and #103. Robert MacLauren is owner of #105.

#120 HILL STREET

This two story, hip roofed house, set far back from the road, was built for the Phillips of Salem, in 1908.

Born in San Francisco in 1876, educated at Harvard, 1897, Mr. James D. Phillips married Nannie Jenkes Borden of Fall River, in 1907, and worked as a publisher with Houghton Mifflin in Boston, winding up in top management. He was also director of a number of insurance companies, a Trustee of Governor Dummer Academy, and in Topsfield, served on the School Committee, 1915-1923, Commissioner of Trust Funds, 1924-1933.

Before the establishment of an income tax in 1913, many wealthy persons chose to have a legal residence in a small town, because of the low tax rate on personal, as well as real estate, property. Topsfield's tax rate in 1908 was 1% plus a poll tax of \$2.00. As the farms purchased were usually cleared, and there was no minimum wage law, it was obviously advantageous to hire help and keep the farms operating. In this case, additional cottages were built to house the help. (See #192-194 Rowley Bridge Street.)

The mansion was started in 1911, as well as a cottage to the east, which was completed first. As the mansion was delayed, the Phillips moved into the cottage, and Conrad Tronerud, whom they had hired to manage the estate, was housed in the former Peterson house on Rowley Bridge Street. Mr. Tronerud worked for the Phillips' until 1962, living in the cottage until 1955, when he removed to #96 High Street.

The property, since Mrs. Phillips death in 1962, and that of her nephew, Stephen Phillips, has been in the hands of Augustus P. Loring of Salem, and the various houses are rented.

John Bell, another employee of Phillips, married Ruth Tronerud, daughter of Conrad, and they lived in the cottage for several years, followed by Marvin King, farmer, who had been at #192 Rowley Bridge Street. The Bells moved to #98 High Street after a brief stay in Essex.



120 Hill Street.



House at Northeast corner of Ipswich Road and Boston Street in 1900.

HOMESTEAD WAY

Homestead Way was laid out in 1967. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

HOWLETT STREET

#1 HOWLETT STREET

PARSON CAPEN HOUSE, Topsfield Historical Society. JHT writes in 1902, "This two story house was built for "Parson" Joseph Capen about 1684-88. It was long in the possession of the Emerson family. It has an overhanging second story and is a very interesting type of the 17th century dwelling. See HC Vol. VI, pg. 49; Vol. VII, pg. 70, line 15; Vol. VII, pg. 131."

Dow's History of Topsfield, page 447, states it was built in 1683 and bases this on what he claims was discovered while the house was being renovated in 1913, viz: "Under the northern ends of the summers (beams) is incised with a chisel the date July Ye 8th 1683, so there exists here what is not to be found elsewhere in so old a house, the exact date when the frame was raised." Hist. page 450.

(Note: July ye 8, 1683 might have been the date the timbers were cut and marked for drying.)

The authenticity of the carved date would appear to be in doubt, for in his Historical Address given at the 250th celebration of the Town's incorporation, Dow stated "some-time after May 14th 1686, (see HC Vol VI, p.51) he erected on the twelve acre lot granted him by the town, the two story house which still stands near the common —." As Capen was not ordained until 1684 (see H p.273), the year he was married, it seems very unlikely that he would have started a house in 1683.

By comparison with houses of similar date built in Ipswich it is obvious that this house was no ordinary structure. His wife, Priscilla, was an Appleton, and her family undoubtedly paid for its construction since Capen agreed to take up "ye worke of ye ministry" for £75 in country pay (produce,



The Parson Capen House before the restoration of 1913 and it's appearance in 1989.

pork and beef).

Rev. Capen died in 1725 and his widow in 1743. Rev. John Emerson became the leader of the church in 1728 and after two or three transfers he became owner of the house in 1758. Billy Emerson, a grandson, known as Forty Farm Emerson, had farms located strategically between Maine and Boston, so located that cattle could be driven for a day, penned up for the night in pasture, and then driven another day until they reached the slaughter houses in Brighton.

The Capen house was used to put up the drovers and was in pretty dilapidated condition by the time Mr. Dow acquired it in 1913 for the Historical Society. Mr. Proctor (whose middle name was Emerson) was a descendant of Rev. John Emerson, which undoubtedly had something to do with his generous contribution to the restoration. The upstairs was made into an apartment and rented throughout the years to various tenants. During World War I Henry Beston, famous author, lived there and wrote the Fireside Fairy Tales. His wife, Elizabeth Coatesworth, was a children's author.

A detailed study of its architectural details has been written in 1970 by Deborah Dupouy and illustrated by Jane English, both of Topsfield.

Capen's marriage does not appear in the Vital Records of either Topsfield or Ipswich, but the Ipswich Public Library has a book on the Appleton genealogy and just above the line giving Priscilla, wid. Rev. Joseph Capen of Topsfield, is written m. Joseph Capen, 1684.

See HC Vol. XX, pg. 60 for further description as of 1814.

The houses between the Capen House and the dry bridge on the Turnpike have all been built since World War II. For information on Samuel Howlett and his blacksmith shop see HC Vol. VIII, p.22. The house and shop had disappeared before 1800.

#86 HOWLETT STREET (See Map 12)

JHT writes concerning this site: "A one story house built for John French stood upon this site about 1675. In 1718 it was sold to Joseph Andrews and, some time before 1798, it was raised to two stories and the easterly end was added. In



*86 Howlett Street.
French-Andrews House in 1900 and 1989.*

the spring of 1693 Howlett Street was laid out as a town way which passed (between Corpl French, his house, and barne). The barn originally stood in the orchard on the westerly side of the road.

Towne does not give any information on the house during the 19th century, but it was still in the Andrews family when he was writing, and in the 1908 Valuation it was assessed to Joseph E. Andrews' heirs.

About the time of World War I, it was purchased by Thomas E. Proctor and added to his extensive holdings, which included all of Great Hill on both sides of the Turnpike.

After Mr. Proctor's death, the Trustee for his estate sold the house and four acres of land in 1949 to Chalmer J. Carothers Jr., who had to do considerable work to make it livable. In 1955 John Healey, Jr. acquired title and occupies at this writing.

#92 HOWLETT STREET (See Map 12)

This two story house stands on the southeasterly portion of the Joseph Andrews' farm. (See #86 Howlett Street.) It was bought by Charles Crevatis in 1950 (Bk.3774, p.487) who lived in it until 1973, when it was bought by Norris F. Nicholson.

The balance of the houses on Howlett Street, east of the Turnpike, all date subsequent to 1963.

IPSWICH ROAD

#8-16 IPSWICH ROAD

These houses were all built on land partitioned by Dr. James L. Mayne, Jr. in 1959. Dr. Mayne lived at #216 Haverhill Road.

#23 IPSWICH ROAD (See Map 7)

JHT writes, "This one story house was built for Edward Morris in 1870 by John H. Potter. The shop by the wall, originally stood on Main Street on the present (1902) site of the hay scales, where it was used as a harness shop, before

1840, by John Symonds Barr. John Parkinson afterwards moved it to a location on what is now School Avenue where he used it for a tailor shop." Towne does not say when Morris sold #23 to Edwin K. Foster, but the latter was assessed for a house and two acres of land in 1892. Foster died in 1914 and his wife in 1918. To whom it was assessed in 1923 is not clear, but in 1928 Thomas E. Proctor had acquired it.

When the Proctor Estate was broken up the property was owned briefly by William T. Murphy, who sold to Dwight and Laura Rockwell (Bk.3841, p.109) in 1951. In 1954, William W. Kimball and his wife, Priscilla, acquired title and they still occupy the residence.

#24 IPSWICH ROAD

The land on which this house stands was bought by Howard Ford in 1904, but the house was not constructed until 1907. His wife was Isabelle Andrews, a direct descendant from Robert Andrews, one of the original Commoners of 1662. (Isabelle was the sister of ten brothers. See #22 and #28 Central Street.) She lived to be 95 years of age and died in 1956, leaving this house to her son, Raymond Ford, who died in 1972. There were numerous changes in occupancy until 1977, when Domenic and Jane Lomanno acquired the property, moving from Revere.

(INTERSECTION WITH PINE STREET)

#28 IPSWICH ROAD

JHT writes (Vol. VIII, p.52), "This one story house was built for Jewett Pingree about 1845, on the farm now (1902) owned by William Lavallette, in Linebrook. In 1873 it was moved to this site and raised and remodeled by Jacob Foster for Joshua Conroad, who sold the property, June 2, 1875 to Mrs. Ellen Ellard." Mrs. Ellard died in 1933, leaving the house to her son, George. In October, 1945 George was hit by the evening train out of Boston and died from his injuries.

In 1947, Annie A. Rines bought the property from the Ellard estate (Bk.3526, p.388), but does not appear as resident. In 1952 James and Annie Rines Emo are listed there staying until 1958 when the Richard C. Gendron's moved

from Somerville and have remained until the present writing. They do not appear to have taken title until 1977, as it was recorded Bk.6386, p.648.

#34 IPSWICH ROAD (See Map 10)

Isabelle (Andrews) Ford (See #24 Ipswich Road) bought the land on which this house stands in 1906, perhaps as a hedge against the fact that Thomas Proctor was buying so much land that it might be hard for natives to find a place for their offspring. In 1920, her daughter, Ruth Ford, married Osgood Richards and it is thought that Howard, her father, built the house for her at that time, although she did not take title until 1922 (Bk.3516, p.317). W. Edward Sedler bought the house with a quarter acre of land in 1953, but not all of the land the Richards had acquired (Bk.3985, p.25).

Robert and Deirdre Lufkin of Salem owned it from 1974-77 and sold to the Heritage Pond Co. of Boxford (Bk.6386, p.25). Present resident owner is Hazen Earle.

(INTERSECTION WITH WOODSIDE ROAD)

#42 IPSWICH ROAD

This large, hip-roof house with doors toward Ipswich Road and toward Woodside Road, was built in 1911 for Elmer B. Thomas of Newton, as a summer home. In 1923 the house was assessed for \$20,000; the garage for \$4,000; and a gardner's cottge for \$3,400; together with some 71 acres in various parcels (see #368 Boston Street).

During World War II Clyde and Leah Hardy lived there, probably in the cottage, and until David and Dorothy Waite of Lynn bought it in 1954. The Waites still occupy as of 1983.

About opposite the North Street intersection, on the south side of Ipswich Road, formerly stood a two story house which was remodeled for Amos S. Chapman in 1856-57 by Cyrus Peabody. Originally built in 1791, in 1902 it was assessed to the heirs of Amos. By 1908 the land was assessed to Thomas E. Proctor, but the house was gone. Amos Chapman was from Ipswich and married Eliza Ann Perkins, daughter of Elisha and Dolly Perkins in 1836.

All the houses numbered 50 through 78 Ipswich Road were built subsequent to 1954.

#86 IPSWICH ROAD

This house has quite a history of moving. JHT writes, "This one story house was formerly William Fears carpenter shop that stood near what is now (1902) the Thomas J. Kneeland house (#124) on Main Street. In 1847-8 it was moved to this (North Street) site and remodeled into a dwelling house for Augustine S. Peabody, who conveyed the same to Henry B. Osgood, May 1883."

Henry was guardian for Deborah Osgood, presumably a niece, as no wife is mentioned when his death was recorded in August 1892. (See notes under #27 Central Street.) Deborah was assessed for the house and considerable acreage in 1908, which appears to have been acquired by Thomas Proctor by 1923, as her name is no longer shown.

In 1954 the house was moved by R. W. Skeffington, Sr. to its present position on Ipswich Road and Paul and Grace Lynch acquired title, occupying until 1978, when they removed to #51 Central Street and sold the property.

Thomas O. McEntee occupied for a couple of years and the present owner, Thomas K. Walker, took title in 1980 moving from California (Bk.6716, p.198).

All houses between #86 and #108 were built later than 1955.

#107 IPSWICH ROAD

JHT writes, "This two story house was built by Capt. Thomas Peabody in 1815 for his own occupancy. In 1871 it was turned partly round and remodeled for David Smith by Jacob Foster."

By 1892 the property was assessed to Daniel A. Conant who lived to be 97 years of age, dying in 1917. Thomas E. Proctor acquired the property before 1923, and the Trustees for his estate sold to Jacob T. Peabody in 1947 (Bk.3558, p.117). Peabody lived in the house and ran an auto repair shop next door. Jacob, known as "Bus", retired to Maine in 1958. In 1960 the Joseph Balletto's moved from Medford and took over the house and business, still resident in 1983.

#110 IPSWICH ROAD (See Map 1)

"This one story house," according to JHT, "was built for J. Waldo Towne in 1847 by Samuel Clark. A short distance in the rear of this house formerly stood a two story house in which lived Francis Peabody, who came to Topsfield from Hampton, N.H. in 1657. His grist mill, a few yards away, was built in 1665. The old house was taken down in 1846." J. Waldo Towne died in 1874 and his widow, Lydia Phippen (Perkins) in 1886. Alphonse T. Merrill, a printer, spent his summers in this house about 1880, and in 1884 he bought out a small printing business, the mainstay of which was the Massachusetts Medical Journal, and moved the press into the barn next to the house. In 1888 he moved to the second floor of the stable on the lot now #35 Main Street q.v..

Mrs. Abby Pevear owned the Ipswich Road house in 1902 when Towne wrote his article, but it was listed to Merrill and wife in the 1892 Valuation. In 1914 Mrs. Pevear sold to Thomas Proctor (Bk.2271, p.599).

Gustave Hyllman lived here and worked for Proctor for many years, but eventually moved to Essex, MA. Then Luigi DiFrancesco, who also worked for Proctor, after Proctor's death bought the Ipswich Road house and occupied it until his death in 1976. Mrs. DiFrancesco (Eunice Dodge of Hamilton) sold and moved to Little Brook Village in 1976. Present owner is Kenneth Schott.

(INTERSECTION WITH BOSTON STREET)

About #124 Ipswich Road, where the Texaco Station is now (with Boston Street address), formerly stood a house owned by John H. Towne, author of the original article on which this one is based. He writes: "JOHN H. TOWNE, Ipswich St. The older part of this two story house was built for Daniel Boardman a few years before his death which occurred in 1708. Six generations by the name of Boardman lived in this house between the years of 1697 and 1835. One half of the house was sold to Benjamin Boardman Towne, a descendant, Feb. 18, 1835, and the other half was sold to him, Nov. 1, 1843. In 1845 the old chimney, 12 by 14 feet in size, was taken down, a new one built and the main part of the old house remodeled. In 1849 the old ell was taken

down and timbers were found marked "1697", probably indicating the year that the house was built. The same year a two story ell was built by Daniel Willey for the owner, B. B. Towne. The carriage house was built in 1886 by John H. Potter. In the west chamber of the main part of the house, a public school was kept for several years in the latter part of the 18th century. This estate belonged to William Paine, merchant of Ipswich, when Topsfield was set off as a village in 1639. He sold to Daniel Clarke, who sold to William Bartholomew of Ipswich, who in turn sold, in 1653, to William Evans, who came from Gloucester, Mass. He sold to Daniel Boardman in 1665. The house which was standing at that time was located on the westerly side of the turnpike and about four hundred feet north from the Elmore Johnson house."

See HC Vol. VII, pg 65, line 1 (On line 11, it should read — 134a.)

John Towne died in 1913 and his son, Benjamin B. Towne, named for his grandfather, married in 1923, but John appears to have been living on Main Street since before 1908, as C. Harry Shoemaker, farmer, was assessed for the Ipswich Road property that year. Shoemaker sold all his property to Thomas Proctor and the house stood idle for many years, finally demolished after World War II.

This corner was long known as Shoemaker's Corner. Sometime in the 1970's a small business development was built near this property and it was called Parson's Corner, so Shoemaker's Corner seems to have become a relic of the past.

See #371 Boston Street relative to the carriage house on this lot.

The north side of Ipswich Road from the Turnpike to #178 was all developed after 1947 by subdivision; that on the south side, with the exception of #173 and 179, was timbered by the Peck Lumber Co., and then subdivided by E. S. Avrell, Engineer, of Lynnfield in 1955.

#173 IPSWICH ROAD

"This one story house," writes JHT, "was built for Mrs. Maria J. Hobbs in 1899 by John H. Potter. It was the last

house that he built." Mrs. Hobbs died in 1900, but she had an unmarried daughter who probably occupied this house for some years. Thomas Proctor was assessed for it in 1928 and his workers lived there. In 1947 his trustees sold to L. J. and M. R. Walsh (Bk.3559, p.542) who turned it over that same year to James W. Marchant. He appears to have occupied it only briefly and sold to Benj. Currier of Boxford, whose son (?) was listed there in 1957 when it passed to Raymond W. Lund. In 1961 Nancy Cousins bought the house (Bk.4857, p.92). In 1962 it was sold to Bernice Billings of N.H. who occupied it only in the summer time.

In 1966, the Crean's from Beverly took title and have made the first major alterations to the structure, adding a garage on the southwest side. Present resident owners are Gerald and Cynthia Crean.

#178 IPSWICH ROAD

JHT writes, "This one story house was built for James Manning in 1886 by Albert H. Towne of Boxford. On the site of the present house formerly stood a two story house which was destroyed by fire that began about one o'clock in the morning of Jan. 11, 1877. It was built for Joseph Boardman, about 1696, he having received the land from his father, Daniel Boardman, whose farm of 300 acres at that date extended from Peabody's mill to the old Ipswich Road (Camp-meeting) leading from North Street to 'the city'." James Manning died in August 1897.

Albert H. Davison acquired the property before 1902 and lived there until his death in 1909, after which Thomas Proctor acquired title — another residence for his workers. (For Proctor's holdings, see HC Vol. XXXII, p.11)

In 1949 John and Harriet Nutter bought from Muriel Mathison and have been active in Town affairs for many years. They are still living in the house. Since retirement as a Mechanical Engineer, John has served on the Town Forest Committee, the Tree Planning Committee and the Conservation Commission; and the family is well known for its Christmas Tree farm.

#214 IPSWICH ROAD (See Map 11)

This two and one half story, gambrel roofed house was moved from South Main Street, opposite the beginning of Salem Road, in August 1975 by the Metropolitan Movers of Peabody for Jonathan and Beth (Rolsma) Bond of Topsfield. Its early history, as given by JHT will be found under Main Street (HC Vol. VIII) since much of it refers to the land on which it stood (South Main Street now).

After World War I, the Essex County Cooperative Farming Association was formed and acquired this house, together with a very large barn. The house was rented out for many years, but the CoOp wanted the space for other purposes and offered it to anyone who would remove it. Mr. Bond, a teacher of Industrial Arts, wanted to preserve it and was in need of a home.

The very fine paneling and beautiful bannister balustrade must have been the catalyst that stirred his enthusiasm despite all the obstacles that were put in his way: First, to find a lot which he could afford. Second, to find one with satisfactory percolation and water table. Third, to find these before the 1st of May 1974. Fourth, to get permits from the Selectmen, the Electric Co., and the Telephone Co. to move this high building. And fifth, as it turned out, the necessity to get a permit from the Commonwealth.

Land offered by the CoOp on Maple Street, advantageous because of the short move, did not have satisfactory percolation on either side of Maple Street. Mr. Coolidge offered land behind the 'water hole' on South Main Street, but the water table was too high, despite the slope. April 30th afternoon, with four hours to go, a test of land between Ipswich Road and Campmeeting Road proved satisfactory. Mr. Bond notified the CoOp he would take the house!

The lot actually contains less than two acres in an area zoned for a minimum of two. The Building Inspector, who grew up in Topsfield and knew the Ipswich Road was altered in 1936, leaving an island surrounded by the old road, the new layout and Campmeeting Road, still wanted a plan showing the layout by the County, made prior to Town zoning. The deed from the Peck Lumber Company to the next owner did not specify which layout of Ipswich Road was intended as

214 Ipswich Road.



In 1900 when house was located at 144 S. Main Street.



In 1989.

a boundary. The Trustee for the Proctor Estate finally resolved this problem.

The Turnpike was the obvious route between South Main and Ipswich Road, but no one was willing to give a permit. The Telephone Co. argued it could not raise or lower, sufficiently, the international telephone cable to let the house pass. The Electric Co. claimed it would be necessary to cut service to 4,300 customers for several hours. The Selectmen were willing to give a permit if a sufficient number of residents petitioned to allow the house to be moved. The State authority said the move would have to be made between 1 and 4 A.M. on a night when the temperature would not drop below 50° F. to minimize traffic disruption, and to make sure no one's house got cold during the electric shutdown.

Mr. Bond canvassed the residents and brought in a petition with six hundred signatures. He had measurements made of the height of wires out of the transformer station to prove that the current would not have to be off more than minutes on lines that served a few customers, and he agreed to remove the roof timbers from the house to lower it enough to pass under the Telephone Co. cables.

The Commonwealth complimented the Entrepreneur on doing his homework better than the utility; the Selectmen were astonished at the number of petitioners; and the Commonwealth forgot about the timing. Jacked up and placed on a flat-bed truck after 17 months of delay the house moved on to Route 1 and got as far as High Street when some Telephone Co. union officers stopped the advance, because their linemen were supposed to be out on strike. Two hours later some Company officials arrived and made the necessary disconnects to allow the house to proceed.

Next, the movers wanted to leave the house within the right-of-way on Ipswich Road and draw a new contract for placing it on the foundation. The Selectmen threatened to collect on the mover's insurance bond and he changed his mind, but the next day he did not want to place it on the foundation, because it involved turning it 90°.

Finally set down, a new ell was built on the Campmeeting side of the two hundred thirty-three year old house, with kitchen, toilets, and a second chimney to serve an oil burning furnace.

Two and one-half years after starting this project, Mr. Bond was married and moved into this historic house. The garage was formerly a school-room in West Peabody, built in New Jersey and moved in two parts over the road.

NOTE: Between Howlett Brook and what has become Wil-
lowdale Road formerly stood the David Clarke
house, which is now located at #27 East Street. JHT
writes of this area, "Near the site of the present
(1902) house, stood, a hundred years ago, a house
which then was known as a very old house and may
have been built in the 17th century. Nearby was a
tan house and yard. The house was taken down
about 1809, when a new one story house, with a
long slanting roof in the rear, was built for Israel
Clarke. This, in turn, was taken down in 1872 when
the present house was built for David Clarke by J.
H. Potter."

#220 IPSWICH ROAD

This bungalow type house was built as a changing house at the same time J. S. Lawrence built tennis courts for his son, who was at Harvard. Mrs. Pym bought it, added an ell, and made it into a dwelling. Jackson Garfield bought it in 1970 and in 1983 added another room on the northeast. The original portion of the building had stucco exterior walls. Mr. Lawrence built a winding driveway from Ipswich Road to East Street, starting east of the brook, but since Pym subdivided, the driveway enters from Campmeeting Road.

When Arthur Pym acquired the Lawrence Estate from Dora Heys Pym he had a layout made for the development of the area east of Howlett Brook, but only the lots facing on Ipswich Road were sold during the 1960's.

Three lots numbered 250, 254 and 260 were built on by individual owners during the mid 50's.

At the corner of Gravelly Brook Road which is at the Topsfield-Ipswich line, formerly stood a house of which JHT writes, "This small two story house was originally a grocery store located on Town Hill, Ipswich, beyond what is now

(1902) the Agawam House. It was occupied by Albert P. Hill. In 1853 it was removed to its present location for Aaron Hubbard, who had just purchased the land. The ell added at that time, was originally a shoe shop on Amos Gould's farm, which is now the Rice Estate at Willowdale. The old barn was a peat house brought from the West Meadows. It fell in pieces and was replaced about 1895, by the present barn which formerly was a part of J. Arthur Lamson's old barn. In 1889 the house was raised to two stories by Daniel W. Hubbard. In 1880 his brother, Elnathan, dug the cellar in the westerly end of the lot. It was partly stoned when he decided not to build and the cellar was abandoned."

In the 1892 Valuation list it does not appear under Hubbard's name. In 1902 Towne gives the owner's name as Nathaniel Foss, but that name does not appear in the 1908 Valuation list. When the house disappeared is unknown. The land today is part of the Willowdale State Forest.

JOHN'S LANE

Laid out in 1969. (See HC Vol. XXXIII.)

KENT ROAD

All houses on this road were built subsequent to the 1951 layout of the R. Skeffington (Green Acres) Development. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

KINSMAN CIRCLE

Laid out several years after Kinsman Lane. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

KINSMAN LANE

Laid out in 1957. A typical example of the folly in

allowing developers to name new roads. There is nothing resembling the definition of a lane here unless it is a traffic lane on a highway, in which case it should be in the plural. All houses date subsequent to 1956. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

LEDGEWOOD CIRCLE

Nothing circular about it. All houses built after 1966 when it was laid out. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

LINEBROOK ROAD

(See Map 9)

It may help understand the irregular lots of the houses on this road to learn the background of the roads in the area. Linebrook Road is part of the Ipswich to Andover County layout of 1652. Pond Street dates from 1668 as a Town Way. Haverhill Road, between Pond Street and Linebrook Road was not put through until 1821. For 100 years after the first two roads were constructed there were no houses in the area. In the mid-eighteenth century, John Hood had the house at #8 Pond Street built, and in 1837 Elbridge Sumner Bixby had the one at #205 Haverhill Road erected. In 1923 Ralph Hood of Haverhill was assessed for the area surrounded by the three roads which was conveyed through several transactions to Metha Winchester. She started subdividing by conveying a lot to her son, facing on Linebrook Road, and subsequent sales of varying size make the lot lines today look like a jigsaw puzzle.

#3 LINEBROOK ROAD (See Map 9)

This one and one half story Cape was moved from its original site on a lot that was acquired by the State, where Route I-95 intersects Route 97 (Killam Hill Road, Boxford) in 1950. As Sidney Perley and Mesdms. Perley and Parkhurst have written the history of the house while it stood in Boxford, I shall simply list the owners prior to 1950:

1830, built for Samuel Goodale, stone mason.

1873, John T. Kennett of West Newbury.

1887, Prof. C. H. Moore of Harvard College, summer resident.

1926, Eugene H. Perley.

1938, John Q. Adams.

1950, Commonwealth sold the building to Anna Ryan of Nahant, wife of the contractor who undertook to move it. An ell, which formerly was located at the rear left corner, was demolished, 12" x 12" timbers placed under the large central chimney and jacked up, on to a flat-bed truck, which brought it down Haverhill Road to its present location. Double dormers, front and back, were added, but the other windows still have the original spring latches to hold them open, instead of counter weights. The four fireplaces have separate flues in addition to one for the house heater.

In 1951, Dr. Benjamin H. Ragle of #205 Haverhill Road, bought the house and two lots (under the Zoning Law of that time) for his three sons. From the street listing it appears that John Ragle did not occupy the house at #3 Linebrook, but two of the boys lived here from 1952 to 1954, after which it was rented to Arthur and Berta Sager.

In 1956 the Sagers bought the house and three lots, living here until 1961, when they sold to Thomas Denny, a developer from New York. The Dennys stayed only two years and conveyed to Ronald and Elizabeth Wilks, who had been living on Mansion Drive.

In 1968, the author, who had lived on South Main Street for 35 years, was induced to sell his house. Mrs. Wilks was the real estate agent who had been trying to find us a place in Topsfield, but nothing seemed to suit us. As a last resort she said, "My house is not listed, but we own land in Peterborough, and when we get a house built we plan to move." That was in March. In August we took possession and the author is still holding down in 1983, the longest period for one family since 1926.

When the house was moved, the original front door had been replaced with a window and the present entrance made where the ell had been removed, and a porch added. In 1968 the Bonds had the porch glassed in, fortunately, for the following winter buried Topsfield in snow. Later, a first floor

toilet was built on to the exterior of the house where the original front door had been, and son Jonathan added two stalls to the garage. C. Lawrence Bond, remembering that snowy winter of 1968, reinforced the roof trusses after Jonathan married and moved to Ipswich Road.

#9 LINEBROOK ROAD (See Map 9)

There was a ramshackle house on this lot during the 1950s built by Joseph L. Jackson, who married at the age of 68, in 1942, a girl of 18 (Carol Kneeland, a resident of Main Street). Their names disappear from the street listing in 1960, and in 1963 Joseph Brzezinski acquired the property. The house was so small that he decided to add an upper floor and extend the rear wall to make room for a shop or garage below. When he started to tear out the wall he found it was made of orange crates! He continued to live there without finishing the upper floor rooms until 1975, when he sold to Kevin L. Campbell, Mechanical Engineer of Ipswich, and his wife, Patricia, L.P.N., who are in residence as of this writing.

#11 LINEBROOK ROAD (See Map 9)

There was a small house, built by W. W. Winchester in 1942, and assessed for \$4,000 in 1944, which was torn down or removed in 1959. In 1974 Philip J. Jersyk, Realtor of Beverly, had the present two and one-half modern design house built for his family's occupancy, and lives there in 1983.

LOCKWOOD LANE

(Formerly Mill Street)

#5 LOCKWOOD LANE

Writing in 1902, JHT states, "This was the place where in early times Zaccheus Gould and his son, Capt. John Gould lived. The old house, said to be the third upon the same spot was built in 1724 and destroyed by fire in 1878. It had then been used as a barn for several years. The present house was built in 1847-8 by Capt. Israel D. Elliott for his own occupancy. By the Colonial Records it appears that on the 31st of May 1660, Zaccheus Gould had his fine for entertaining

Quakers remitted on account of his loss by fire. See Gould Genealogy, pp.33-4 and Topsf.Hist.Coll. Vol VII, p.72, line 16."

The above account seems somewhat confusing, but apparently the present house is not on the same foundation as the original ones which burned. The main house would be called one story by J.H. Towne, and has an ell on each end, the one on the west end, a story and one-half, connects with the barn.

Elliott died in 1873. A son, Fred, was assessed in 1892 for a horse and three cows, but no buildings. In 1902, Job Frame was in possession of the property which was assessed in 1908 to George T. Parquette. The following year Parquette sold to George W. Burnham.

Hans and Jacobina Anderson, grandparents of Richard Carlson of Averill Street, had been occupying an apartment in the house and farming the land before buying from Burnham. On the death of his wife, Hans sold the house and property on both sides of the road, to Alexander Cleary, in 1945. In 1952 the Clearys built the house now numbered #10 Lockwood Lane, and sold #5 to J. Harrison Holman, who made considerable interior alterations. His wife, Prudence, was active in town affairs up to the time, in 1980, when they retired to Maine. The present owner is Hajime Kozuru, an artist, and his wife, Mitsue.

#10 LOCKWOOD LANE

This one story house with two car garage attached, was built in 1952 on land acquired in 1945 from Hans Anderson at #5 Lockwood Lane. Mr. Alexander E. Cleary, an administrator from Chelsea, retired in 1965 and continues to live here with his wife. Their daughter, Jean Caso, lives on Pond Street.

#15 LOCKWOOD LANE

This one story house with attached garage and chicken house, was built in 1951 for Doris E. (Demars) Bedell on land partitioned from her father's property at #21 Lockwood Lane. She and her husband, Charles, lived there until his death in 1976. After this, Donald J. Dobson acquired title.

#16 LOCKWOOD LANE

This one and one-half story house was built on land cut from #22 Lockwood Lane in 1972. Present resident owners are Henry T. and Marie Gagnon.

#17 LOCKWOOD LANE

This one story house with two car garage attached, was built by Thomas J. Demars in 1959 on land partitioned from the property at #21 Lockwood Lane, Bk.4612, p.482. He died in 1965 and was buried in Malden. The property has turned over a number of times since — to a Richard and Susan S. Stone among others. John D. and Barbara McGonagle acquired title in 1964.

#21 LOCKWOOD LANE

This one story house was built for Thomas A. Demars in 1946, father of Mrs. Bedell of #15 Lockwood Lane. A separate barn and a cottage were already on the lot. Royal Barry Wills, Architect, designed the house.

#22 LOCKWOOD LANE

This two story house with attached garage was built in 1947 for James A. and Gertrude Fultz on land purchased from Edward Holmes of Boxford, Bk.3491, p.97. Mr. Fultz died in 1964 and Gertrude in 1968. In 1969 Robert Fultz sold the house to Ramona M. Donahue who presently resides there. See #24 Lockwood Lane.

#24 LOCKWOOD LANE

This one story house with two car garage attached was built in 1958 for James A. Fultz, Jr. and his wife, Louise, on land cut from #22 Lockwood Lane. In 1972, LeBaron and Constance R. Barker moved from #2 Oak Drive, and Mrs. Barker still occupies at this writing.

#31 LOCKWOOD LANE

This two and one half story house was built in 1788-89 by Simon Gould, Sr., son of Captain John Gould. Simon's son, Elijah, was the first occupant. In 1872 it was in the possession of Proctor Perkins, who thoroughly remodeled it,

and in 1901 was occupied by Albert F. Tilton. (Albert Tilton was the father of Warren and George, the latter a long time selectman in Town, who later owned, jointly, the houses at #488 and #490 Boston Street. In 1905 the two brothers married sisters and in 1911, Albert's estate sold the Lockwood Lane property.)

Albert Tilton's sons bought property on the Turnpike before their marriages in 1905. Albert died in 1910, and his wife continued at the old homestead until her death in 1919. The house then passed to Melvin Hicks in 1920, who sold to Emile Guay in 1926 (Bk.2690, pg. 122). Emile died that same year, and his widow, Alvina, living in Swampscott, leased to Alexander Silva, who acquired the property in 1943. Mrs. Silva had eleven children, seven of them boys. Silva farmed the property, and according to local hearsay, the boys all left home as soon as they dared take to the road!

In 1955 Silva sold to William Cargill, realtor, who turned it over to a developer named Bauer. Silverbrook Road was laid out and the house and barn at #31 Lockwood Lane set off on a separate lot. From 1957-64, Oley Casto, a farmer from Haverhill, occupied the house and had other farm couples, mostly from Maine, living there as farm workers, but the house was owned by David Lampert of Cross Street, owner of Meredith Farm (See #41 Cross Street).

In 1968 Donald J. Desmond, a contractor from Peabody, purchased the property, and continues there at present writing.

MAIN STREET

NOTE: In Mr. Towne's time Main Street started at the Turnpike. When street numbers were introduced, the portion southerly of Park Street was renamed "South Main Street".

#2 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This small real estate office (Country Squires Properties) was built for William Cargill after World War Two, on land which at one time belonged to the Newburyport Railroad. The original passenger station was removed in 1897 when the



31 Lockwood Lane.



5 Main Street.

Park Street station was built. The building is now a flower-shop and is still owned by Mary Cargill.

#4 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This building, leased to the U.S. Government for the U.S. Post Office, was built in 1963-4. The property is part of the Topsfield Shopping Centre. Two large old apartment houses were torn down to put in the Post Office and parking area.

#5 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

In 1902 JHT wrote, "This two story building, now used as a dwelling house, by the present owner (Otto E. Lake) was built by Thomas Meady in 1809 and by him was used as a store and tavern. Meady removed to Philadelphia in 1817. Col. Ephraim Wildes owned this place for several years and kept a hotel here. He sold to Capt. William Munday, butcher, April 8, 1825. He kept a tavern here for many years, and was followed by his son, his grandson, and by Dalmer J. Carlton. In later years it was known as 'The Topsfield House'. The original swinging sign now hangs at 'Ferncroft' in Middleton. The present owner has remodeled the building somewhat, the last time in 1900. On the rear of this lot stands the old B & M Railroad Station, now remodeled into a dwelling-house. The small octagonal building used as a barber shop formerly stood on the small park adjoining the John Bailey house, where it was occupied as a barber's shop by O.E. Lake. It was removed to the lower part of the Centre School grounds (School Avenue) near the brook and occupied by Mr. Lake for several years. In 1901 it was moved to its present location. The small building adjoining, and now occupied by Benj. C. Dodge as a clothing store, was originally the chaise-house in the rear of the Munday house."

In 1917 Otto Lake transferred the house and property, which extended from Park Street to Central Street, to his wife and daughter, perhaps because he was involved in other real estate developments. He died in 1929. His wife continued to use the upper floor, using the address as #2 Park Street, until her death at the age of 100 years in 1954.

The Telephone Co. occupied the ground floor for its exchange from 1899 to 1953, when it built an automatic

exchange on Central Street. Mrs. Lake had an extension in her room, so that she could serve night calls. Mrs. John Gamans, of Prospect Street, acted as an operator as a teenager, but the prize for appropriate name of a telephone operator went to Belle Dingle.

When the Lake estate was finally settled the C&C Elliott Oil Co. bought the property, in 1959, and made a thorough renovation. A glassed-in lean to built on to the house along Main Street was removed, the first floor made into offices (and an apartment upstairs) with an entrance on Park Street. It was occupied at one time as a dress shop by Peg Gamans and Marion Walsh; later by Dr. Thomas A. Grady, D.M.D. The lean-to area at various times housed a grocery, a restaurant, and the Community Club's Thrift Shop. At one time there was a bowling alley in the basement of the main house.

#6-12 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

The buildings to which these numbers would have applied, were gone or torn down by 1963. As early as 1834, W.E. Kimball had a blacksmith shop which was removed and made into a carpentry shop for John H. Potter. In 1836 part of the store, later occupied by Mary S. Kimball, was built, and various members of the Kimball family ran a grocery there. That same year, Charles C. Brackett built a two story house for W.E. Kimball where his son, William Kimball, was born. William died in 1888 and the following year his widow had the house at #6 Park Street built, and the Main Street house converted into four apartments.

At the time JHT wrote his article, the property was in the name of Benjamin Lane. He died in 1915 and his widow, Lucy, in 1925. Thurza* (Lane) Merrill, as Administatrix, sold the property to Harlan Greaves, electrician. (Harlan Greaves removed to Florida where he died in 1956.) In 1956 William Cargill, Realtor, saw the possibilities for the use of this land which extended behind the Savings Bank property at #16 Main Street. James Cochrane and Anthony Gangi set up the Sheephead Realty Trust and made plans for developing the Topsfield Village Shopping Centre. By 1964 the old buildings had been torn down and the area converted to parking.

**Thurza was spelt Theresa in the Vital Statistics for 1865.*

#13 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This building, renovated when the Elliotts bought the Lake property, was the original passenger station on the Boston & Maine Railroad (then the Georgetown and Danvers Railroad), which stood on the east side of the railroad tracks and behind what is now #2 Main Street. The station on Park Street was built in 1896 and the old one presumably moved shortly thereafter.

Ruth Ferguson Walsh was born in this house shortly after its original remodeling into a dwelling. Elliott sold to Paul McDonough in 1976.

#15 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

Many transactions have taken place since the Lake property at #5 was broken up subsequent to 1958. Four houses stood here originally, including the one at the corner of Central Street, occupied by Alex and Irene Gangi until 1958 (HC Vol. VIII, pg.33-34). #15 was removed to Boxford when the gas station was built.

The Tremarco Corp. of New York bought the property in 1958 and the station was acquired by Paul McDonough in 1964.

#16 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Samuel Gould in 1819. The ell was added in 1840 by the same owner. For several years the front of the house was used for a store."

In 1908 it was assessed to William Pitman Gould (1855-1928)* and was known as Gould Manor; in 1944 to Alice F. Gould, his daughter-in-law, who continued to live there until 1947. Her name was legally Florence Alice (Baker) Gould and she was the widow of Arthur Gould. Robert Thompson made it into apartments and was the owner at the time it was sold to the Haverhill Savings Bank in 1954, now called The Family Mutual Savings Bank. The upstairs rooms are used for offices and meeting rooms.

Although the property is separate from the Shopping

Centre, the parking areas for both are contiguous. A rear entrance to the bank adds to the convenience of shoppers.

**Photo of Mr. Gould: Town Report, 1928; Town Treasurer, 1891-1928; Collector of Taxes, 1923-1928; Trustee of Library, 1909-1928.*

#17 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

The property was owned by Angelo Marciano. It is now a bike shop (the house had been moved to #6 Central Street) q.v..

#19-21 MAIN STREET

The one story brick appendage to the house at #23 was built by Carmine Marciano in the late twenties which he used as a cobbler shop. Since his death in 1930 the stores have been rented. The property is owned by the Marciano sisters and is currently rented to the Sweet Shop.

#20 MAIN STREET

On the site of the present Security National Bank, according to John H. Towne, there stood a one story shop, known as Bailey's Market, which John Bailey had moved during the winter of 1880-81 from opposite what is now designated as #126 Main Street.

An old photograph shows the building as two stories in height with a sign reading Perkins Shoe Shop, probably in the early 1900's, for later it was known as Mrs. Peter's Variety Store, complete with penny candy, fruit and flies. Upstairs there was an apartment for her family, the Giovannacci's. In a small building attached at the left, was a Barber Shop run by Abraham Lincoln Tolman. Following World War II the Gangi Bros. operated it for a while as the Centre Market. They subsequently remodeled it with new outside walls before removing the inner ones.

In 1959 the new Topsfield Village Shopping Centre got under way with a new market, owned by Anthony Gangi, and the old market was purchased by the Danvers National Bank. If there is any of the original Bailey's Market left, it is well concealed by new fire-proof construction.

In 1968 the Security National Bank acquired title to the Danvers Bank.

#23 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "The small shoe shop was built for Charles Herrick in 1871 by John H. Potter." This statement has to be taken with regard to his previous discussion of the large shop, since the small shop, two and one half stories, was considerably larger than most of the shoe shops in Topsfield.

In 1908 the property stood in the name of William Herrick, son of Charles, and in 1913 William conveyed to Grace Smerage, wife of F. Percy Smerage, who converted the shop into a hall for the Girl's Friendly Club with shop on the first floor. In 1915 Smerage converted the building into a dwelling house and moved an addition in back, away from the house, and made it into a stable. In 1923 Carmine Marciano, who had been employed for some years on the Proctor estate, bought the house and added the brick appendage, soon after, to use as a cobbler shop. Carmine died in 1930, and the property was in care of a guardian for his children and in the name of his wife, Theresa. The gasoline station was started some years before the property at #17 was acquired and the repair shop added later. (See #17 Main Street.)

#24 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This one story brick and shingle store (somewhat out of keeping with Topsfield's traditional architecture) was built after a fire gutted the century old building in January 1967. JHT writes of the original: "This two story building used for post office, drugstore, billiard hall and tenement, was built for John Bailey in 1877 by Albert Chesley, and was first occupied by Benj. P. Edwards, druggist, who came from Salem. The hall on the second floor, until recently known as "Wesley Hall" has been used for religious services and singing schools. M.V.B. Perley kept a private school here in 1882-3." Also a John L. Fiske ran a shoe store here in the early 1900's.

In 1947 Harris G. (Pete) Giles purchased the property and lived on the upper floor until moving to Gail Street. He continued to run it as a drug store, but was not himself a druggist (his father, Wayne, was). There were apartments upstairs and out back. A small building was attached on the right for a cleaner's shop. The property was bought by VSH

Realty, Inc., which built the present store for the present tenants, Cumberland Farms Inc..

#26 MAIN STREET

This number was never actually used. Prior to the 1920's a two story house occupied this area, now used as a driveway for #24. It was undoubtedly part of Bailey's property and was burned out while in use as a tenement.

#27 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This one story shop and office was built in the late 1940's. For its early history, JHT writes (1902): "In 1837 Charles Herrick had a small shoe shop built upon the spot where the large shop now stands. In 1850 it was moved to one side to make room for the new building, and the following year it was moved away to be remodeled into the Henry W. Lake house on High Street (#23). The present three story shop was built for Charles Herrick in 1850 by Jacob Foster."

In 1913, Mr. Herrick sold the building to the Topsfield Grange* which had it remodeled for a meeting place on the second floor, with stores and later, the Post Office, on the ground floor. When the building was gutted by fire in 1941, the Grange moved to South Main Street, and the Post Office took quarters for the war period in the shop at #21 Main Street. In 1942 Michael Coppola acquired the land and after the war built the present (1983) structure with two offices, for tenants. He sold to the Squires Trust in 1969.

**The National Grange was organized in 1867 to reorient the lives of those who had borne the tragedy of the Civil War. Topsfield Grange was the 184th group to join.*

#28 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This number was originally assigned to a house, owned by John Bailey, which stood behind what I have called #32. It was rented out for a number of years until bought by Mary Lou Cargill of Boxford in 1954 or 1955, and moved to #130 Main Street q.v.

NOTE: John Bailey, shoemaker, came to Topsfield from Parsonfield, Maine, about 1862, together with his wife,

27 Main Street.



Topsfield Grange Hall (1913-1941).



Office building presently occupying this site.

Mary Augusta Moore. She died in 1864, and John married in 1866, Sarah Jane Gould of Topsfield.

Because of their long association with town affairs and inter-family relationships, it seems worthwhile to give the following information:

Merrill Benjamin Bailey, born 1868, married Maud C. Bailey of Newbury in 1888. They had a son, John William, born 1889, and a daughter, Ursula, born 1890. A son, Paul Larkin, never married, but Ursula married H. Chester Williams, in 1921.

John Bailey developed the shoe business in Topsfield to a point where he had buyers coming from as far away as Virginia, and he had the large house, reported at #36 Main Street, for entertaining them while they carried on their business. John died in 1902, but his wife lived until 1943. After her passing, Merrill sold the large holdings that John had acquired and moved to Hampton, NH, where he and his wife celebrated their 76th wedding anniversary.

Ursula (Bailey) Williams had a daughter, Nancy, who married John T. Hills in 1951, and they have two offspring, now grown.

Chester Williams had a sister, Ida, who married Mark Hodges (see #118 Main Street). An aunt of Chester, Mary Williams, married Charles Wilkins of Middleton, and had five daughters, two of whom are still alive in 1983 (see #110 and #112 Main Street, and #35 High Street).

#30 MAIN STREET

See #36 Main Street.

#32 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This one story brick building was built in 1951 by Myron Peabody for a U.S. Post Office, the first time Topsfield had a separate Post Office building. When it became outgrown by the P.O., which moved to #4 Main Street in 1964, it was rented to a restaurant, to Woodbury Fuel Co., to a Square Dancers shop, and then to a succession of Pizza parlor owners. It is currently owned by Leo Theodorou of Kinsman Lane.



35 Main Street in 1900.



35 Main Street in 1989.

#35 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes: "This two story house was built for Benjamin Kimball in 1836 by Capt. Israel D. Elliott. A large addition was also built for him in 1876 by George A. Towne. In 1882-3 J.H. Towne (the author of the original volume which is here quoted) at that time owner, remodeled considerably, the carpenter work being done by J.H. Potter. Mrs. Deborah Kimball celebrated her one hundredth birthday in this house on October 2, 1879. The "Deborah Kimball Fund" had its origin on this occasion. She died here Dec. 10, 1879." There was a big building attached to the barn and was used as a Print Shop. It was accidentally burned by a young printer. (There is further information on the burned building in HC Vol. VIII, p.36)

Raymond S. Roberts (see Town Report, 1980), a nephew of Mrs. Towne, received the property and lived in it until his death in 1980. Miss Shirley Baker, the current owner, is his step-daughter. This is one house in town that has not been moved from its original foundation!

#36 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This small store, which appears to be part of the Topsfield Village Shopping Centre, is separately owned by Mr. Elbridge H. Gilford 3rd, who was in business before the Centre was constructed. In 1876 or 1877 the building was built as a dwelling for John Bailey by Albert Chesley, behind what is now #32 Main Street. It was bought by John Oldreive in 1950 (Bk.3787, pg.494), who occupied it until the Bailey house, at what was then #36, burned in 1957. Gilford bought from Oldreive and arranged to have it moved into line with the proposed extension of the Shopping Centre.

Myron Peabody told the author that he had little thought of buying up the center of town, but went to the auction in 1940 when the Bailey property was put up for sale. Bidding was slow and he made a very low offer, which to his surprise, was the last bid. The house, then numbered 36, was sold to Don and Jean Holloway in April, 1947. They lived there and rented an apartment to Myron Peabody until he built a house on Gail Street. The Holloways removed in 1955 and an enlisted army man and family occupied at the time of the fire,

which in 1958 consumed the entire house. Considering the density of the houses and buildings in the center of town at that time, the Town was fortunate to have avoided a general conflagration.

Subsequently, with the moving of the Oldreive house, a large opening from the shopping center on to Main Street was made available.

The house originally designated #36 was quite ornate for the period in which it was constructed, and had a beautiful granite wall and gate posts. In 1902, JHT writes, "The two story residence of the late John Bailey was built for Dr. Joseph E. Batchelder in 1843, by Charles C. Brackett. It was afterwards owned by Deacon John Wright, who died here July 29, 1861. The property was sold to John Bailey, May 2, 1865 and he made several additions in 1866, the carpenter work being done by Jacob Foster."

In 1843 this was only the second house to be built on the west side of Main Street and it must have been attractive as one came into town from either direction.

(INTERSECTION WITH SCHOOL AVENUE)

#37 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "This two story house, until recently known as the "Parkinson House", was built for Frederick Perley, trader, in 1834. Prof. Alfred W. Pike, the principal of the Topsfield Academy, 1834-5, was its first occupant, living here in November, 1834. John Parkinson, an Englishman, and a tailor by trade, came to Topsfield in 1844 and for many years occupied this house as a boarding house. His tailor shop was in the northern end of the building." See #59 Main Street and #23 Ipswich Road.

Parkinson sold to Andrew Gould (Bk.955, p.176) in 1876. His son, Edward Otis Gould, was the owner at the time Towne was writing. Of his five children, Frank. E. was the only one to survive infancy. He inherited the property in 1925, but died in 1940. Ralph Otis Gould, son of Frank, sold to Neal Bridgman in 1945 (Bk.3427, pg.108). After his wife's death in 1956, Bridgman continued to live in the house and rented part of it, then sold it, but continued to stay there until 1952.



37 Main Street.



50 Main Street.

The present owners, Rizza and Beacham (Bk.7251, pg.286, in 1983) have converted the house into apartments.

#38 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

In 1947 Myron Peabody sold the former Bailey Block, which was termed the Chalk Factory, to John and Mary Hart, and after the fire in 1956, it was torn down and the front part of the lot remained vacant until 1960, when the present business block was built. John H. Towne writes, in 1902, "The southerly half of Bailey's Block, the first floor of which is occupied by Charles I. Trowbridge, grocer, was built for Deacon John Wright in 1839, and was used as a shoe shop. The northerly portion of the block was built in 1875 for John Bailey."

"In 1868, Mr. Bailey bought, from the Town, the school house which stood on the Common, near where the Town Hall was afterwards built. He had it removed to the rear of the block and raised a story, then occupied it as a stitch room. The three story shop in the rear was built in 1871. Joseph B. Poor carried on a grocery and dry goods business on the first floor of Bailey's Block for a number of years, or until 1886, when he occupied the old Benjamin P. Adams store across the street. The hall on the second floor was completed and occupied by Fountain Lodge of Odd Fellows, Nov. 11, 1878. Topsfield Lodge, No.25, A.O.U.W., which was instituted Aug. 17, 1886, leased this hall after the Odd Fellows vacated it, and has occupied it ever since, of late years conjointly with Topsfield Grange, P. of H. 184. Where the driveway to the barn now is, formerly stood the old Clark Tavern, afterwards owned by Rev. Daniel Breck, pastor of the Congregational Church, 1779-1788, and from 1821-1836 owned and occupied by John Rea 3rd, who opened a tavern. The house and out-buildings were destroyed by an incendiary fire on the night of October 16, 1936. HC 1, p.7 and 30, HC 7, p.76, line 24 and p.136."

In the early 1900's the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, usually known as the A&P, had an outlet on the ground floor and Carmine Marciano rented space for a cobbler's shop, before he built one at #23 Main Street.

In 1913 the Grange moved across the street to #27.

After World War II, Myron Peabody, who had acquired the property at auction in 1940, rented the second floor to G. Everett Blanchard for a chalk factory, which he operated until 1954, when he removed it to #245 Boston Street, and subsequently to Danvers. As stated above, the building burned in 1956.

#40 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

According to JHT, this lot was originally occupied by a stable for the Samuel Adam's house at #46. Robert Lake, in 1876, had it remodeled and an addition built on by Albert Chesley, and in 1901 it was partially occupied by Alphonso T. Merrill, printer. For thirteen years Merrill served as Town Clerk and was succeeded by William Perkins in both capacities. I doubt that many Topsfield residents know that Merrill was the designer for the monument on the Common. H. 453.

#44 MAIN STREET

This one story concrete block building was erected by the Harts of Andover, for the Cedar Crest Machinery Company in 1950. It is located behind the block of stores numbered 38 Main Street.

#46 MAIN STREET

The one story building which formerly occupied what is now a driveway beside #50, and carried this street number, was moved back on the lot and had another story added, to make apartments. As this parcel was part of that now numbered 50 at the time Gilford owned it, it seems probable that this house is the one mentioned as a second dwelling at #50 Main Street. In the 1928 Assessors' listing, it was termed a flat.

#49 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "This two story dwelling house and grocery store was built in 1830 for Nathaniel Perley. He and his brother, Frederick, kept a general store and were followed by Benjamin P. Adams, who was also postmaster for many years. Its present (1902) owner has made alterations in 1888, 1895 and 1898."



49 Main Street in 1900.



49 Main Street in 1989.

At the time Towne was writing, Joseph B. Poor was the owner, and his two sons, William and Charles, and his daughter, Helen, continued to live there. William was selectman for a number of years and died in 1940. Charles went into wood-working, using the former store for a storage space and doing his work in a shop at #7 School Avenue. He died in 1964, and Helen and Martha, his widow, moved to #24 Colerain Road. Martha lived to age 99.

Phyllis Norton, Real Estate Agent, bought the property and turned it over to her son, a builder from Malden. Brent Roeder made the building over into offices and apartments, which appear to be in demand up to the present time (1983). The grain shed that was attached was moved, in 1936, to #22 Summer Street for apartments, by Mel Smerage. Current owners are Gerda and Charles Roeder of Haverhill Road.

#50 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Samuel Adams in 1856, by Jacob Foster. The small store, now occupied by Alphonso T. Merrill, printer, was originally one half of a stable which was remodeled and an addition built on for Robert Lake in 1876 by Albert Chesley."

Lake acquired the property from Elizabeth Adams in 1871, and his heirs were still assessed for it in 1908. Laura Balch and James Chandler sold it in 1922 to Elbridge Gilford who had been living on River Road. At that time, there was a garage and shop assessed in addition to the house. In 1947, Gilford transferred it to John F. Connors and the assessment included a second dwelling, store and shop, and a paint shop. In 1965 the Appleton Associates took title and have held it for investment since that time. It is now apartments and business offices.

#51 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This building was originally the barn connected with the Poor property at #49 Main Street. When Poor sold part of his land to the Wood Engineering Service in 1946, the barn stood on the line agreed upon for division of the lots, and it was stipulated that the grantees should remove it. The present owner, Robert A. Wood, is a son of Robert M. Wood, the

President of the Engineering firm. He leases to Dean Harwood, of Bare Hill Road.

#52 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT is very brief: "This one story house was built for Joseph Lovett in 1845, by Charles Brackett." Hiram Wells owned it at one time, but he died in 1892 and it was assessed in 1892 and again in 1908 to the heirs of Hiram.

In 1953, John and Martha Spurr of Melrose bought the house and lived in it briefly, turning it over to Dr. Lansing Bennett and his wife in 1954. There is nothing on the record to show that any major changes were made. It was a time when people found it cheaper to buy and sell on a rising market than to pay rent. In November 1955, the Bennetts sold to Leonard and Hilda Scott, who appear to have rented it to various families until March 1958, when they sold to Edwin Thompson, the realtor, and his wife. It is currently owned by Appleton Associates with apartments upstairs.

#53 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This one and one half story house was not mentioned by Towne. In the assessors' records it appears, perhaps as a shed in the 1908 Valuation. Robert A. Wood and his wife occupied the upper floor about 1952 and having made over the first floor into an apartment in 1957, they moved down and rented the upper floor. In 1962 they moved to their present home on Boston Street, and both apartments are rented.

#54 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

Writing in 1902, JHT states: "This one story house was built for Jacob Foster in 1846 by Charles C. Brackett. The ell was built for the present owner, (Melvin W. Gould) in 1887. Jacob Foster, who built many houses in town, learned his trade with Mr. Brackett, in 1848-9."

It is interesting to note that the map in HC Vol. VII shows a house just about where this one stands, on property of Samuel Hood, who died in 1843. Towne makes no mention of it, but probably the present house was built on the old foundation. Melvin Gould held from 1883 to 1920 and sold to Henry B. Lewis (Bk.2445, p.31).

Owned by Daisy Smerage for many years, the building is now owned by Appleton Associates and is used for a dental and secretarial office, and apartments.

#55 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This property has been through so many transformations that it is nigh impossible to say which part is of what age. About where the driveway to the Proctor School is now "formerly stood the Moses Wildes blacksmith shop," (I'm quoting John H. Towne) "which was sold to Henry Long and removed, and is now the Ira P. Long shop."

The site of the Long shop in 1902 was fairly well back from the street. In 1923, an unsigned plan was drawn in Sidney Perley's office showing the main body of the present shop, and the hay scales at the edge of Main Street. Ira Long died in 1903, and probably Fred Dingle continued the business of blacksmithing there before he bought the property in 1923. (See #59 Main Street.)

Fred Dingle came from Nova Scotia with five children and a wife who deserted him after living here, so Fred sent for Belle, his sister, to come take care of the children, and built a house on Central Street in 1911.

Legend has it that he built the second shop for a garage for his son, but it was not used as such, except that a filling station replaced the hay-scales. In 1950 he sold the front shop to Wood Engineering Service, which built fire engines and equipment, and carried on his own work in the rear shop, #57.

In the early 1960's Robert Wood rented the small shop to Dick Shaw doing business as "The Village Workshop". In 1961 J.F. Moscarito bought it for woodworking, added a front office, later acquired #57 and connected all the buildings. (See #59 Main Street).

#57 MAIN STREET (Rear of #55) (See Map 5)

This concrete block building was built by Fred Dingle as a garage, it is said, probably for his son to operate, but the latter was not interested, and Dingle used it as his blacksmith shop. When he died in 1953, the C.T. Wright Co., sheet-metal workers, occupied it selling to Gerald E. Moscarito in

1968 (Bk. 5564, p.612). It is now connected with the older buildings at #55 Main Street and run as a woodworking shop. The brook that drains Great Hill runs beneath it and joins School Brook at the southerly property line.

#58 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

A portion of this two story building was built as a one story shop and carriage shop by Moses Wildes in the 1850's, located about opposite the present site of the Civil War monument. "In 1892," writes John Towne, "the building was removed to its present site (1902) opposite the hay-scales...by Albert H. Towne of Boxford. The brook which flowed along here was confined in a pipe and the entire lot filled and graded to its present level."

August 1, 1902 Arthur U. Hutchings sold the house and half acre of land to Charles Fred Dodge, as shown on a plan by R.D. Hood dated December 1892. In 1908 the house was assessed to C. Fred Dodge; in 1923 to his wife, H. Melissa; in 1944 to his daughters, Florence Melissa and Violette. In 1960 the Dodge Estate sold the property to Edwin Thompson, Jr. as trustee, and he turned it over the same year to the Topsfield Business Trust. It was completely remodeled for offices at this time. Currently occupied by Evans and Evans, Attorneys, and apartments.

#59 MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

On this property before 1850, Benjamin Herrick had a wheel-shop, which was removed or torn down, for in 1851 the present two and one half story structure was built by Jacob Foster for Henry Long, grandfather of the Henry F. Long who became Tax Commissioner of the Commonwealth. Ira P. was son of the first Henry, and JHT reports his "blacksmith shop was originally the Kimball Wildes blacksmith shop, and was located across the road..."

Ira P. Long died in 1903 and Fred Dingle took on the business. The house and barn were acquired by William A. Long, brother of Ira, and he ran a livery service. Mrs. John Gamans remembers when one could rent a horse and buggy to drive to Danvers for 50¢! The property, which included #53-55 and #57 at that time, was kept as a unit until William



59 Main Street.



93 Main Street.

Long's death in 1923 when it was purchased by Harold Jordan. He sold the blacksmith shop and garage the same day to Fred Dingle of Central Street, and used the house and barn for his family until his mother's passing made the house at #93 Main Street available.

In 1944, William S. Ballard, Realtor of Boston, who had been living in Ipswich, bought #59 and lived there until he moved to Rowley Bridge Street in 1947.

Daisy Smerage bought and had two apartments arranged, the lower rented to Dr. Lois K. Rogers (Hayden) for several years, after which the doctor purchased in her name as Hayden, and continued to live there until 1964, when she removed to Newburyport. A reception room was added at the front left corner and she still maintains her office. During the early years she kept riding horses in the barn. Currently the property is owned by the Hayden Family Trust.

The original avenue to the Topsfield Academy, later approached by School Avenue, ran through this land and near to the blacksmith shop. The title description was in error for some hundred and twenty years due to the fact that the original surveyor transposed his measurements of the front and back lines which made it impossible to fit it in between the abutters. (See School Avenue.)

#60 MAIN STREET

Proctor School. Ground was broken for the construction of the three story main building in October, 1932, and the school children marched from the old Academy building to their new classrooms in September, 1933. Thomas Emerson Proctor, for whom the school is now named, offered to have a new building as well as the land donated to the Town, but an agreement could not be reached on the plans proposed by Proctor's architect, as the townspeople felt the cost of maintenance would be excessive. Proctor gave the land, and the playing field was named for him.

In May, 1946 a fire broke out in the cafeteria on a Saturday, but fortunately was discovered before it had gone too far. However, it was deemed necessary to employ the original architectural firm of Kilham, Hopkins and Greeley to prepare plans for reconstruction, which was done by Myron

Peabody of Topsfield.

As the Town began to expand rapidly after World War II, the State put pressure on the Town's School Committee to do something about overcrowding in the class rooms. At a special Town Meeting, held February 19, 1951, money was appropriated for "Constructing and originally equipping and furnishing of an elementary school building, with multi-purpose room." Six class rooms were added at Proctor at this time in a one story extension, running at an angle from the left rear corner of the original building. The multi-purpose room serves as a gym and is used for Town meetings. In 1955, four more class rooms were added to the extension (Hugh Stubbins of Cambridge was the Architect). In 1968 the roof of the first addition caved in under an unusually heavy snow load, but nothing appeared in the Town Report about it, other than that the amount of money, spent on building repairs, more than doubled the amount budgeted.

After the Steward School was completed in 1963, the Proctor School rooms once again met the State standards as to size and occupancy, but by 1973 the building was forty years old and in need of refurbishing, so a complete job was undertaken and a cafeteria and library added. The architect's nomenclature "Instructional Materials Center" reminds me of one School Committee's report on the daily routine, in which Recess was called "Unprogrammed Recreational Period".

#80 MAIN STREET

The Congregational Church. Writing in 1902, JHT states, "On this location a meeting-house was erected in 1703, a small hill having been leveled for the purpose. In 1750-1760 a second meeting-house was built upon the same site, which was removed in 1842, and taken to Salem and rebuilt on Boston Street, where it is still in use as a tannery. The present edifice was dedicated on Wednesday, February 22, 1843. The bell that hangs in the steeple is inscribed 'REVERE & CO. BOSTON. 1817'."

The tannery mentioned above was near the starting point of the Salem fire in 1914, and burned.

Prior to 1823 the affairs of the Church were in charge of the Town and settled at town meetings. Church and State



The Congregational Church has been the focal point of the Topsfield Common since 1703. The present building, completed in 1842, as it appeared in 1900.

were separated by an Act of the Legislature in 1823. It wasn't until 1916, however, that the Town took responsibility for the triangle of land on which the Meeting House is located. Granite markers, very close to the building, delineate the limits of church property, but the Town did agree to restore land to the church should it be required for religious purposes.

In 1853 the western end of the Meeting House was expanded to add a vestry and organ loft. The first pipe organ was installed in 1857. In 1891 the interior of the Meeting House was extensively repaired and redecorated and the stained glass memorial windows were installed. Except for the removal of the carriage sheds, the church was essentially unchanged until 1967, when extensive interior and exterior changes were made.

At that time the central pulpit format was changed to a divided chancel to provide improved choir seating and better siting for the organ console. A new organ loft was built to locate a new pipe organ (the third pipe organ). These changes also made it possible to increase the seating capacity of the church. The vestry area was rebuilt and a new rear entrance to the Meeting House was provided. Because of the inadequate stairways to the rear balcony of the church, the fire marshall would no longer permit use of the balcony by the early 1960's. Consequently, small additions were added on each side of the Meeting House to provide for new stairways to the balcony. Finally, the entire interior was redecorated. New lighting fixtures were provided and a modern sprinkler system was installed.

In 1976, the American Steeple Tower & Chimney Co. of Salem undertook the job of replacing several vertical posts beneath the church spire. While the A-frame construction within the steeple prevented distortion, there had been a visible lean toward the north as one viewed it from High Street.

#93 MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "In 1733, Rev. John Emerson bought this site of the Topsfield Commoners for £14, and probably soon after built a house on it. The present three story house, the end towards the street being of brick, was built for Billy Emerson in 1808. It is said that the parson's study was re-

tained in building the new house and is yet a part of the easterly end of the house.”

It is interesting to note that Towne omitted fifty years of history concerning this house. Perhaps he thought it best to avoid comment on one of the town's wealthiest citizens.

Billy Emerson is believed to have made his money in cattle. His daughter, Eliza P., married a Boston merchant, Gilbert Brownell. His son, Thomas, had a daughter, Ruth E. Emerson, who married a farmer from Ohio, Ben Jacobs (see #117 Main Street).

When Billy died in 1835, Gilbert Brownell bought #93 and kept it for 17 years, selling it to Humphrey Balch in 1852. In 1842, Humphrey was listed on the town records as teacher and shoemaker, but he appears to have had considerable interest in real estate and maintained an office in Boston.

When Humphrey died in 1897, the property passed through his daughter, Anna, to her husband, Charles Fred Jordan, who owned it at the time Towne was writing. Anna survived her husband and died in 1934, leaving the house to her son, Harold, who had been living at #59 Main Street. Harold lost his wife, Marion, in 1955, and his daughter, Polly Esty, stayed with him for a year or two before moving West. In 1965 the property was transferred to Joseph J. Strong of Winsor Lane who wanted to remodel the house into a number of apartments, but ran into difficulties. Richard and Leslie Stephan (from Algiers, where Richard had been acting as consultant) occupied the ell from 1960 to 1979, since when it has been turned over several times.

A picture taken around 1900 shows a porch across the front of the house. Exterior changes today are limited by its inclusion in the Historic District.

#94 MAIN STREET

See #1 Washington Street.

#103 MAIN STREET

JHT writes, “This two story house was built for Amos Perkins in 1860 by John H. Potter.” Perkins died in 1894, and the property was acquired by the Todd family. Mary Emma Todd lived until 1920 and her daughters, Ada and



103 Main Street.



109 Main Street.

Marion, until 1961 and 1967 respectively. From 1970 to 1972 it was occupied by Robin and Diane Rollins, when it was purchased by Anthony Manfre, who sold to Leslie M. Stephan in 1978, moving from #93 Main Street.

#104 MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for the present (1902) owner, Albert A Conant, in 1898, by E.B. Peabody of Danvers." Mr. Conant died in 1931 and William C. Guay, Accountant, with an office in Boston, bought the property and occupied it until his death in 1957. His daughter, Constance, married Frank McManus, Accountant and real estate developer, and they moved into this house from #15 Washington Street, after Mrs. Guay had the house at #100 Main Street constructed. In 1965, Jonathan and Marion Peck took title and lived here until 1978, when the title passed to Jonathan in 1979. There have been several transfers since that time.

Very little has been done to the house, structurally. Under the present writer's method of rating the house would be called two and one half stories with sharply pitched roof, a porch and large dormers, a late Victorian style not common in Topsfield.

#109 MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This one story house was probably moved from across the street to its present location, by Thomas Emerson. The house was built before 1784. In 1850, the property was conveyed to Elisha P. Andrews, who had it remodeled and an addition built in the rear, in 1867. In the field beside the house and adjoining the G.B. Balch property, formerly stood a blacksmith shop which was occupied for several years by William M. Andrews." Henry M. Andrews, son of Elisha, was assessed for the property in 1908, and Harriet, wife of Henry, in 1923. In 1923 Gladys Cole, wife of Alfred N. Andrews bought it. Alfred was a cousin, once removed, of Henry Andrews. The house remained in this family for fifty years, after which they sold and removed to #69 Washington Street. Ann Bouchard purchased it in 1976. A small addition required approval because the house lies



104 Main Street in 1900.



104 Main Street in 1989.

within the Historic District. Rooms are rented at this writing, but the present owner, Robert Mulcahy, does not reside there.

#110 MAIN STREET (See Map 7)

JHT writes, "This one story house was originally a carpenter shop which stood not far from the present (1902) entrance to the A.A. Conant property on Main Street (#104). It was built by Stillman Stone in 1827-8, and became the property of Richard Phillips, Jr. *, in 1835. He had it removed to its present location about 1841 and remodeled into a dwelling house for his father. Joseph W. Batchelder †, a prominent man in town affairs for many years, died here May 10, 1887, aged 87 years."

**Mr. Phillips was Postmaster in 1841 and Administrative Officer of the Town's schools in 1851-2. He is reported to have had "a happy faculty for euphonious phases."*

† Mr. Batchelder, a widower for 45 years, was a cousin of Mrs. J. B. Lake.

John Batchelder Lake was assessed for the property in 1892 and 1908, and died in 1914. At that time the area of the lot was 2 acres, but subsequent to the building of the house at #112, the area assigned to #110 is one half acre. In 1916, Maria Billings, Administatrix, sold #110 to Charles E. Wilkins whose wife, Mary, was a sister of Henry B. Williams at #118 Main Street.

The Wilkins had five daughters: Gertrude married in 1926 Clarence Castle, a carpenter (see #35 High Street); Ruth married Philip Kendall of Stone & Webster, and they lived in this house after Mr. Wilkins had the house at #112 Main Street built; Harriet lived with her parents; Marion married Mr. Karl Ricker and recently retired to #13 South Main Street; Martha married Mr. Charles Douglass, and moved to Boxford.

When Ruth Kendall died in 1976, Phil removed to #69 Washington Street where he has been active in the Housing Affairs up until his 90's. Present owner, Samuel Hingston, son of the family at #96 Main Street, bought the property from the Administrator of the Wilkins Estate in 1977, and replaced the ell and raised it to two floors. A former barn had been

removed many years ago, and a new one built on the same foundation. Under the present author's rating system, if the eaves are below the top of the windows on the second floor, the house is called one and one half stories.

#112 MAIN STREET (See Map 7)

This two story, hip-roof house was built for Charles E. Wilkins, druggist of Lynn, in 1918 (See #110 Main Street). Mr. Wilkins died in 1941. His wife, Mary, lived to be 95, passing away in 1956.

Paul Best, an engineer from #126 Main Street (and before that from Schenectady), and his wife, Grace, acquired the property in 1958 and held it until 1966, at which time it was transferred to Robert and Rosemary Jaran, from New York. In 1973 Eliot Cohen, Admin. Officer at Hogan Regional Treatment Center in Danvers, and his wife, Nancy, occupied it until 1983.

#117 MAIN STREET (See Map 7)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Benjamin Jacobs in 1872, by John H. Potter, and by him extensively remodeled in 1874. It was again remodeled in 1901, by its present owner (Gilbert B. Balch) and in 1902 the stable was built by Henry H. Roberts. The old barn, which was moved to the rear at this time, formerly stood on Haverhill Street near the Gallup house site (#57), and was moved to this spot and remodeled by Samuel Clarke, about 1857."

Benjamin Jacobs was a farmer from Ohio who married Ruth E. Emerson, granddaughter of Billy Emerson, and it was probably her money that built and altered the house in the 1870's. Their daughter, Annie, married Ralph Hood in 1874; Mr. Jacobs died in 1920 and Ruth sold the property to Humphrey Balch of #93 Main Street q.v.

Gilbert Brownell Balch was son of Humphrey, a graduate of Dartmouth College and listed as in the Ministry, which profession he pursued in Connecticut for a year, before shifting to selling books, first in Canada and later with an office in Boston, as agent for the Century Dictionary. His father bought the Jacobs house and conveyed it to Gilbert, probably about the time of his marriage in 1881. Gilbert died in 1910



110 Main Street.



117 Main Street.

and his widow married Edward J. Prest.

Prest outlived his wife and sold the house to T.E. Proctor about 1928. Max Wahl, butler for Mr. Proctor on Perkins Row, occupied the house with his family. Bertha Wahl, retired school teacher, now lives on Grove Street.

When the Proctor estate was broken up, J.V. Baxter bought the house and a portion of the land running through to Howlett Street, and has sold off lots during the intervening years.

Mr. Balch called the mansion "The Knolls", but Miss Wahl reports that the main portion of the house, which stood between the present house and the street, had been removed when her family occupied what had been the servants quarters. (See HC Vol. VI, pg.89).

#118 MAIN STREET (See Map 7)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Jonas Merriam in 1789. The two story ell was built in 1877, and the stable was extensively remodeled about the same time, for Mrs. Adeline Merriam, widow of Dr. Royal Augustus Merriam." She died in 1887 and her son, Arthur, sold to John F. Culliton, but he died in 1890. Charles Tuttle, of Salem, Trustee under the will of Mr. Culliton, sold the property in 1897 to Mary F. Williams, of Lynn.

In 1908, Williams was assessed for 9 cows, 3 horses and 60 hens, and besides the house and barn, there were several outbuildings and about 55 acres of land. Most of this land is now part of Normandy Row and Parsonage Lane.

A son, Henry Chester Williams, went by his middle name (See #14 High Street). A daughter, Ida, married Mark Hodges (see #32 High Street) in 1912, and after her father's death the property, which had increased to 90 acres, was in her name as of 1923. Ida died in 1960 and Mark in 1961.

Claude and Marion Cyr, who had been living on Gail Street for twenty years, bought the property and moved in, in 1963. Claude, a draughtsman and illustrator, died in 1978 and his family moved to #18 Howlett Street in 1980.

#124 MAIN STREET (See Map 7)

JHT writes, "This two story house was originally the



118 Main Street.



124 Main Street.

Henry A. Merriam shoe shop and stood opposite the Todd house (#5 Haverhill Road) in the field next to the cemetery. In 1841 it was removed to its present location, and in 1844 it was remodeled into a dwelling house by Augustine S. Peabody. In 1890 its present (1901) owner (Thomas J. Kneeland) made extensive alterations. John H. Potter was the carpenter."

Henry A. Merriam was a nephew of Dr. Royal A. Merriam who had acquired the Jonas Merriam (probably an older cousin) farm at #118 Main Street. Henry may not have fancied living next to the cemetery, or may have helped with the farm animals on Dr. Merriam's place.

Thomas J. Kneeland was the son of Aaron Porter Kneeland who also had a shoe shop near by. He probably acquired the house at #124 about the time of his first marriage and made the alterations mentioned above as his family grew. Clarence Kneeland was a son by his second marriage and continued to live here until 1979, when he removed to the house next door to live with Wallace, his son.

Gary P. Cyr, Jr., who had been living in New Hampshire, son of the Cyr's at #118, acquired the property and did a very extensive renovation of the house which he occupied from 1980 to 1983.

#126 MAIN STREET (See Map 7)

According to JHT, "this small one story house was built in 1854-5, by Samuel Clarke for his own occupancy. His barn and carpenter shop stood across the road. The shop was removed and is now (1902) Bailey's market, so called (#20 Main Street). The barn was moved to the rear of the present G.B. Balch stable." In his notes on Bailey's market, Towne reports that Clarke bought land of G.B. Balch (#117 Main Street) and moved the shop across the road from the site of the house, #126, which he built for himself. Clarke died in 1888 at the age of 91 and the house passed into the ownership of Julia Cummings, who was assessed for it in 1892, but not in 1908, and no further records on her appear in Topsfield.

In 1938 George Barker, not a resident of Topsfield, sold to Vida and Mabel Gegenheimer of Troy, NY, the house which they occupied until Vida's death in 1956. Mabel removed from town and the house was taken over by Wallace

Kneeland, Tree Warden. In 1972, Wallace, Superintendent of the Cemeteries in Topsfield since 1965, married and transferred the property into joint ownership while living at #64 Central Street. Lucille Leach (her daughter is Mrs. Pasquale D'Agostino) lived in the house and in 1979 the Kneelands occupied the property (See #124 Main Street). Mary Kneeland, Wally's widow, is the present owner.

#127 MAIN STREET (See Map 7)

JHT writes, "This one story house was built for Abram Welch in 1872, by Jacob Foster. Welch was killed August 22, 1899 by falling from a load of hay. In the corner of this lot formerly stood A. Porter Kneeland's shoe shop, which was removed and is now on Grove Street, where it is owned (1902) by Calvin W. Fuller" (See #30 Grove Street). It was gone by 1928.

Abram's second wife, Ellen O'Connor, died in 1924, and Walter Benton, carpenter, and his wife, Anna, bought the house and lived out their lives there, passing it on to Ruth Houston, their daughter in 1963. Her husband, Alexander, taught in the Topsfield School for many years and worked for the Red Cross, now retired. They moved to this Main Street house from #95 South Main Street, where they had lived since 1941. The roof of the house was raised by Walter Benton to keep the house cooler in the summer. The Houston's are still resident as of 1983.

#129 MAIN STREET

This one story house was built in 1954 on land that was cut off from the Benton's property at #127. Frederick V. and Deborah D. Moulton moved from Prospect Street. Mr. Moulton is in export sales; Mrs. Moulton has been Tax Collector since 1972.

#130 MAIN STREET (See Map 7)

This one story house was built for John Bailey by Albert Chesley in 1876 or 1877, on land which is now part of the parking area for the shopping mall on the west side of Main Street. It was moved at the time Tony Gangi started the mall in the 1950's. Its present location is a lot cut out from land



126 Main Street.



130 Main Street.



132 Main Street.



15 Mansion Drive.

owned by John Robertson at #132. The first tenants were James and Celia Swindell in 1959, who moved from Grove Street. In 1961, Norman Judson of Danvers bought the house; in 1967, Milton T. Martin, Jr. of Melrose; and in 1968 Margaret Bowley, realtor, bought it and moved from #54 Main Street. She still resides at #130 in 1983.

#132 MAIN STREET (See Map 7)

"This one story house," according to JHT, writing in 1902, "was built by Daniel Hood, housewright, in 1778-9. In 1806 it became the property of Aaron Conant, and until recently has been known as the Conant house. Near this site William Perkins, son of the Rev. William Perkins, had his house as early as 1675. See Vol VII, p.80, line 27 and p.129."

Albert A. Conant, 1834-1931, built the house at #104 Main Street in 1898, and presumably it was about that time that Philip Palmer acquired #132 with two acres of land. Philip was a printer from Waterville, Vermont. His daughter, Rena, married Clinton O. Ingraham in 1914, and they lived here with the Palmer's until Philip passed away in 1935.

In 1936 the State widened and flattened the curve from Main Street into Haverhill Road. The plan shows the house stood about where the present sidewalk is located, so that it had to be moved back on the lot. At this time the property stood in the name of Rena Palmer and Bessie C. Woodbury.

In 1941 Clinton Ingraham's name disappears from the street listing (they divorced and he moved to Canada) and the following year Rena moved to Valley Road. In 1942 the property was in the name of Allen F. Breed, who sold it to Rena Farrell. She held it until 1948 and sold to John and Caroline Robertson. A plan by Thomas Appleton in 1942 shows the area as 2.59 acres, before #130 was cut out.

During 1971 and 1972 the house was rented and in 1973 sold to the Robert Kuhn family from West Peabody, who were still living there at this writing.

See HC Vol.XXVIII, p.140 for pictures and an article on Sarah Colcher, negress, (an African slave) who lived and died there under the care of Elizabeth Dodge Conant, mother of Albert.

MANSION DRIVE

All the houses, with the exception of #15, were built subsequent to 1954.

#15 MANSION DRIVE (See Map 10)

This house was listed as "off Ipswich Street" at the time JHT wrote, "Capt. Thomas Baker was living in this two story house in 1715, which is said to have been built in 1710. He married Priscilla, daughter of Deputy Governor Samuel Symonds, and died in this house, March 2, 1717. It remained in the Baker family until 1795, when it was sold to John Batchelder. Thomas Baker, his son, Thomas, and his grandson, Thomas, were all captains of military companies." The property was known as the Elmore Thomas Estate.

We are not told which John Batchelder was the purchaser in 1795, but both father and son died before 1850, and we are told nothing about the property until 1892, when it was assessed to Algernon S. Cram, father of Grace Smerage.

Sometime between 1929 and 1933 Abbie Cowen bought the property with considerable acreage. In 1952 the property was bought for development and the driveway westerly of the house was widened into a road in 1954, at which time the house was given the present number on Mansion Drive.

In 1958 the road was continued to connect with Woodside Drive.

The Gardener Nortons lived here from 1954 to 1966 when they sold to Dr. Dubravko M. Kuftinec, the present owner.

MAPLE LANE

This road dates from 1961 and was developed by Robert Porter. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

MAPLE STREET

#15 MAPLE STREET

This was the first house to be built between South Main Street and the Turnpike. Nicholas D'Agostino, Superintendent of the Water Department, was married in 1946 and moved to Maple Street from Pemberton Road. After his death, his widow, Dorothea, a teacher, continues to live there.

#47 MAPLE STREET

This house was moved about 1957 from Locust Street in Danvers when the Reservoir was built. Present owner is Robert Skory.

#51 MAPLE STREET

"This one story house," writes JHT, "was originally the 'officer's quarters', built on the campground at Wenham, in 1862, and used during the Civil War. The building was purchased by John Leary in 1866, and removed to Topsfield the same year. A small addition was built and the whole fitted up for a dwelling house. The barn and shed were built from parts of the soldiers' barracks purchased at the same time."

John Leary died in 1876, and was buried in Salem.

In 1902, Michael Collins owned the house. His wife was Ellen Leary, but the 1892 Valuation book does not show the property in either the Leary or Collins name. In 1944 the house was assessed to Frances P. Collins of Newton, and the Dodge field to P. Joseph Collins of Newton. The house stood idle for several years until Robert S. Porter of Danvers bought it and subdivided the area adjacent to the old Railroad right-of-way. Homer and Erica Harris, from Pittsburgh, occupied it when they first came to town in 1956, and since then it has been rented with many changes of tenants. Present owner is Brian Burns.

All other houses on Maple Street were constructed after 1954.

MCLEOD ROAD

#25 McLEOD ROAD

This unusual one story house with broad porches and roof look-out deck was built for Sims McGrath in 1958-9, ostensibly for entertaining business associates and customers. He may well have had information as to the area being under consideration by the Salem-Beverly Water Board for additional water storage. From 1963 to 1973 he had young couples living in, probably to care for the property when he was away, but after 1973, it would appear that separate quarters were made, as the street addresses differ, and in 1975 the McGraths, having sold to the Water Board, left town.

#44 McLEOD ROAD

Henry F. Long, writing on McLeod Road in HC Vol. XII, p.73 states that John Rea, John Rea, Jr. and Jacob Dwinell petitioned for this road to be mended in order for them to go to meeting. This would indicate that there was a house or houses there in 1774. The present house was probably the one built for John Rea, III, in 1827, but JHT did not include it in his 1902 article.

In 1902, the County laid out the road by the northeast side of McLeod's dwelling, and the description goes no further. Norman McLeod died in 1929 and the house stood vacant for some time. William E. Smith, laborer, lived in the house during the depression with no utilities. Some time later, my four year old son commented about the man who lived in the chicken house! He had heard me comment that he had no electricity, so I guessed he 'went to bed with the chickens'.

The 1935 Valuation List gives Hattie L. Nesmith of Westford, Massachusetts as the owner of a house and lot on McLeod Road, besides several fields.

During 1948 the house was remodeled by Peter Black, who had been living on Salem Road, and he and his wife, Caroline, moved to McLeod Road, where they stayed until 1953. Sims McGrath bought the house and lived there until his new place at #25 was completed in 1959, when he sold to Robert Shepley who lists himself as 'construction'. The

Salem-Beverly Water Board has owned the property for many years, but the Shepley's stayed on until 1981.

MEADOWVIEW ROAD

(See Map 12)

Laid out in 1961. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

MEETINGHOUSE LANE

According to Dow's History of Topsfield, "No record is known to exist indicating the exact location of the first meeting-house in Topsfield, but cherished tradition places it near the house from which Goody Wildes was hurried away to her trial and execution in witchcraft times. The field at the north-west corner of Howlett Street and Meeting House Lane is the supposed location." It is useless to haggle over Dow's description, but this does not describe where he thought it stood. However, up until the 1950's there were the remains of a stone foundation visible about where #6 Meetinghouse is now. For Towne's description of a house taken down in 1863, see HC Vol. VIII, pg.42.

All the present houses have been built since World War II.

MIDDLETON ROAD

So called, was the outer part of Washington Street. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

MILL STREET

Was renamed Lockwood Lane.

NORMANDY ROW

Laid out in 1963. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

NORTH STREET

On land now controlled by the Topsfield Water Department, on the north side of Mile Brook and south of Boardman Lane, formerly stood a large house which burned in 1942. Writing in 1902, JHT states, "This two story house was built about 1700. Thomas Symonds was born here in 1711, and died here January 10, 1791. The house remained in the possession of the Symonds family for 175 years. In the west room is the largest fireplace remaining in any house in town. The dimensions are: 9 feet long, 6 feet high and 4 ½ feet deep. It has a brick oven on either side of the fireplace behind the fire. It also has a ledge or shelf eight inches wide and twelve inches high and nine inches deep, on which was kept the tinder box, etc. This was the last house in town in which the hand loom was used. Miss Betsy Symonds, who died October 19, 1871, aged 88 years, was the weaver. When the house was repaired a few years ago, a brick was found in the chimney marked '1700'."

Around 1900 the house was in the name of Laura A. Ellison, but in 1925 Harry O. Horne was the grantor when the property was purchased by Roy Ford and put in the name of Edna J. Ford, his wife, to whom it was assessed in 1935.

Another large house which has been gone since World War I, was built for Lt. Francis Peabody shortly before 1698; according to family tradition about 1692. The huge chimney was taken down in 1886, and a large addition built on to the house in 1891. A picture in HC Vol. VIII, pg.41, shows it to be two and a half stories with an ornate front door frame. Isaac B. Young was assessed for it in 1892, and Roderick, a son, in 1908. A plan drawn by Nourse in 1910 shows the house located about 600 feet east of North Street and fairly close to the former mill pond. Roderick died in 1913, and Thomas E. Proctor acquired the property, which was later purchased and developed by Richard Skeffington.

A house which formerly stood at the corner of Boardman Lane (north side) was moved to #86 Ipswich Road, q.v.

#109 NORTH STREET

"This two story house," according to JHT, "was built for Stephen Foster in 1748, and was owned by Nathaniel Foster in 1798. In 1877-1878, part of the old house was taken down and the remaining part was remodeled by John Potter, who came into possession of the property by way of exchange with John Smith, the owner, for the house on Central Street (#54) which he had just built. About five hundred feet in a northwesterly direction — is the cellar hole of the old Stephen Foster house." That is in Ipswich.

Potter sold to Franklin Magraw in 1901, Bk.1660, pg.438. Magraw sold to _____ Gerrish in 1902, and he to Mary Tarbox, Bk.1692, pg.226. Tarbox sold to Fred Deering in 1906.

Fred Deering put the property in joint ownership with his wife, Della, who was the daughter of Francis Frame, and sister to the two Tilton wives, whose farms adjoined on Boston Street. Fred's daughter, Lila, married James Wildes.

In 1944 the Deerings conveyed the property to Louis Greenwood, dog trainer, who has occupied the house for forty years and maintained dog kennels there, while Virginia Mokler, a niece, kept house for him.

NORTH COMMON STREET

#4 NORTH COMMON STREET

JHT writes, "The Methodist Church, was built by Jacob Foster and John H. Potter, in 1853-54. In 1888, the steeple was shortened and extensive repairs were made. The bell has the following inscription — "CAST BY HENRY N. HOOPER & COMPANY, BOSTON, 1853,—1015—26." The first floor of the church is known as "Union Hall". Town meetings and many public gatherings met here before the Town Hall was built in 1873. It is still used for public purposes."

In 1926 the Methodist Church joined with the Congregational to form the Federated Church. In 1938 all holdings

North Common Street.

*Congregational
Church Parish House.*



*Methodist Church
in 1900.*



*Methodist Church
prior to 1888.*

of the Methodist Church were transferred to the Congregational for \$1.00, becoming the Topfield Congregational Church.

This building, known as the Parish House, serves for the activities of many organizations: Boy and Girl Scouts, Masons, Church groups, and for voting.

In the 1950's the steeple and pews were removed and the interior remodelled. The Bell was removed, but was broken in the process. In 1963 complete renovating and remodelling was carried out by means of the Tercentenary Fund for the 1963 celebration.

OAK DRIVE

This was laid out in 1955, accepted in 1957. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

ORCHARD LANE

Laid out in 1963, accepted in 1980. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

PARK STREET

#6 PARK STREET (See Map 5)

"This two story house," writes JHT, "was built for its present (1902) owner (Mary S. Kimball) in 1889, by Isaac Berry of Danvers." See #6-14 Main Street. Mary Kimball had three sons, all in their teens when their father, William B., died in 1888. She was assessed for the property in 1908. In 1921 the house was sold to Ovide Bouchard, builder from Salem. He put it in his wife's name, Marie L. Bouchard, and they both lived there into their 90's. Their two daughters, Lucille Beaumont and Juliette Guay still have apartments there in 1983; and two of the Bouchard sons had houses on Central Street, #15 and #21, q.v.



109 North Street.



6 Park Street.

#16 PARK STREET (See Map 5)

The land on which the building stands was sold by Mary Kimball in 1915, to George N. Coyle of Somerville, and he turned it over to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, a Corporation sole. In 1921-22, Ovide Bouchard, who bought the Kimball house at #6 Park Street, undertook the building of the chapel, which was served by a priest from Danvers. (Prior to this, catholic services were held in the Town Hall.) After the Rectory was purchased on Prospect Street in 1949, a resident priest came to Topsfield, and the chapel became a church. Additional land has been added since the original purchase.

Opposite the church on Park Street, formerly stood the Boston & Maine Railroad Station, built in 1897, when the original station proved inadequate. After World War II, use of the railroad fell off to the point that service was abandoned for passengers, although freight service continued for some years. The station was torn down in the early 1950's. Original construction started in April, 1853. First passenger train, August 12, 1854, through service October 23, 1854, known as the Georgetown-Danvers Railroad.

#20 PARK STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "This one story house was built for it's present (1902) owner in 1878, by Albert Chesley." That owner was Abijah Richardson, who was still assessed for it in 1908. In December, 1919, Elizabeth Taylor, one time wife of Ormand C. Taylor, bought the property and lived there until her death in 1966. Their daughter, Helen, married Wilfred van Buskirk in 1921. Helen later lived here with her mother, and after her second marriage with George Chute. He died in 1957, and Helen stayed on after her mother's passing, until 1970. She is presently (1983) living at Little Brook Village on Washington Street. The present owner is Philip Chick.

#22 PARK STREET (See Map 5)

This bungalow type house was moved from the Lockwood estate in Boxford, where it was used as a laundry, and set behind the house at #20 in 1949. Remodeled, it was made

into a dwelling for William (son of Helen V.B. Chute) and Rosemary van Buskirk who still live there.

#24 PARK STREET (See Map 5)

According to JHT, "This one story house was built for Jotham Welch in 1874, by George Cummings. It was assessed to Mary Welch in 1908. She died in 1920 at the age of 91. It was assessed to Wellington Donaldson in 1923 and 1928. In 1930, Ernest Watson bought the property and lived there until 1953, when he and his wife, Hazel, built the house at #94 East Street and moved to that address.

In 1954, Howard and Lorelie Lovering purchased #24 Park Street and lived there until 1956, after which Isabelle Dingle and her niece, Olive, made it their home until 1963, when Olive died. Isabelle stayed on until 1971, at which time the house was sold to Hattie Bernier, Bk.5758, pg.135. In 1976, Donald Foye bought it for a retirement home, moving from Peabody.

PARSONAGE LANE

Laid out in sections from 1964 to 1972. (See HC Vol.XXXIII)

PEMBERTON ROAD

#2 PEMBERTON ROAD

Frank A. Pemberton of Peabody bought land from Charles V. Jackman in or before 1891. In 1892 he had a two story building constructed for a tool house and shop, located elsewhere on the lot. In 1900 C.V. Jackman had acquired it and moved it to its present location, where he had it remodeled into a dwelling house. It remained in the Jackman family until 1952 and was rented out at various times: to Willie Smith when the Goulds built next door; to Mrs. Mary Canning, cook for the State Police Barracks on Route 1. In 1952 Clif Elliott bought it and lived there until 1975, when he moved to Arrowhead Road and sold to Peter Beacham.

#8 PEMBERTON ROAD

This two and one half story house was built by Charles V. Jackman in 1908 for John R. Gould, blacksmith. Mr. Gould came to Topsfield about 1899, as an apprentice to his brother, Jim, whose shop was on Washington Street just beyond the High Street Extension intersection (See #7 Central Street). In 1905 he married Marion Averill of Topsfield and they both lived out their lives in this house. Their daughter, Evelyn, a teacher, now retired, still lives there in 1983. Son, Albion, married in England and moved to Lynn.

In 1915, an ell of the building on Central Street was removed and made into a barn on this Pemberton Road property. In 1978 a lot was cut off from #8 for Clifford Beck of Parsonage Lane.

#17 PEMBERTON ROAD

Myron Peabody built this two and one half story house in 1932-33 for his own occupancy, and lived there until selling to Warren Rockwell of Grove Street. Warren married in 1935, Helen Hebb of Ipswich, and they occupied for twenty years, selling to William Printup, engineer, of Peabody. In 1976, the Printups sold to Patrick Yanchus, teacher, from Beverly.

#20 PEMBERTON ROAD

In 1909, Melvin Smerage bought land of Charles V. Jackman, and built this one and one half story house, which he put in his wife, Bessie's, name. They lived there until 1927, when it was sold to William Sullivan of Salem, who was assessed for it in 1928. Sometime before 1935, Elsie Shapleigh acquired title and lived there after her husband's death in that year, until her second marriage to Linwood Balentine. (See #72 High Street.) Linwood's son, Alvah, who had been working in the south, came back to Topsfield in 1945, and has lived there since.

#21 PEMBERTON ROAD

This one and a half story house is believed to have been the last house built by Charles V. Jackman, who died in 1924. His widow sold to Irene Leach in 1927 (Bk.2729, pg.372)

and she was assessed for it in 1935. She and her husband, Walter Leach, lived there until 1936, although a bank held the title from 1933, and sold the house to William W. Gordon. He lived in it in 1938-39 and sold it to Charles and America Gregor in 1941 (Bk.3253, pg.99). In 1949 the Gregors sold to David Smallidge, machinist, now retired, who makes his home there with his wife and son, Donald, well known custodian of Topsfield's Town Hall.

#24 PEMBERTON ROAD

In 1945 the Balentines sold some land from #20 to Joseph Pettipas, who built this house, two stories with an ell of one and a half stories in height. He never lived there, but sold to Robert and Margaret Haag from Indiana. Mr. Haag was employed at General Electric. His widow was still living there in 1983.

#26 PEMBERTON ROAD

This two story house originally stood on Boxford Road near the Town line, probably in front of the present #23. It was moved about 1922 to its present location on land which Charles Sweeney bought from Charles V. Jackman in 1921. The Sweeney's daughter, Peggy, married Frank Skinner, of Danvers in 1939, and when Mr. Sweeney died in 1953, the Skinners came to live there with Mrs. Sweeney. An extra bedroom was added at the back of the house by the Skinners.

#27 PEMBERTON ROAD

In 1927, when Mary Jackman sold the Leach's the property mentioned under #21, it included buildings, but it is questionable whether the house on #27 was there at the time. When Walter Leach sold in 1928 to Charles S. Welch, the deed included buildings (Bk.2772, pg.49). In 1952 it was sold to Harold Fletcher, automotive engineer, who still lives there with his wife, Agnes.

#30 PEMBERTON ROAD

Percy Smith, jobber, bought the land on which this one and a half story house stands, sometime after Sweeney bought the lot next door, but it does not appear in the 1923 Valua-

tion list. In 1928 it was assessed to Nelie B. (Swindell) Smith, and her family all grew up there. In 1956 it was sold to Cecelia Leon, whose occupation is given as 'hearing aid', (Bk.4297, pg.78) and she lived there until 1964.

Fred Pickard bought the property from Leon and rented it to Reta Evans for three years, then to his son, Bruce. In 1975, Fred Pickard moved from #32 and has lived there in semi-retirement up to 1983.

#32 PEMBERTON ROAD

This one and a half story house was built on land sold to Isaiah Swindell in 1920 by C.V. Jackman. Isaiah put it in his wife's name and she, Emma, lived there until she sold to Fred Pickard, town employee, in 1958. He and his wife, Viola, made it their home until 1975, when they moved to #30 Pemberton Road.

#37 PEMBERTON ROAD

This one and a half story house stands on land bought by Jennie D'Agostino and sold to her daughter, Grace Costanza, in 1974. In 1979, John D'Agostino acquired it (Bk.6575, pg.793). It has been rented for varying periods ever since built; the present tenant, Patricia Swindell, from Danvers, since 1972.

#38 PEMBERTON ROAD

This two story house was built for Pasquale D'Agostino, mason, in 1915 and has been in his family ever since. Mrs. D'Agostino used to have a most prolific vegetable garden, and I remember how popular her produce was during World War II. Besides her daughter, Grace, she had four sons, all of whom made Topsfield their home. Present owner is Phyllis D'Agostino, widow of Pasquale, Jr..

#48 PEMBERTON ROAD

In 1915, John DeCotis was issued a permit to move the George Clay house from Colerain to the land he had purchased from Charles Jackman in 1914. He appears to have lived here for several years, then removed to Danvers, but was still taxed for the property in 1944. In 1965, Charles K.

Wilkinson, Jr., engineer from Somerville, acquired the property and was still occupying in 1983.

PERKINS CIRCLE

Laid out in 1975. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

PERKINS ROW

#2 PERKINS ROW

This one and a half story house with large central chimney and an ell on each end, was built in 1949 for William Brewster, formerly of #94 South Main Street. The garage is attached at right angles to the easterly ell. Mr. Brewster died in 1953 and the title passed to James A. Walsh, a contractor. In 1970, his widow sold to Walter Lovelace of Danvers, retired. The present owner, 1982, is S. D. McCullough, Division Controller.

#7, 11, 13, 17, 21, 23, 24, 27 PERKINS ROW

These houses were all built subsequent to 1953.

#31 PERKINS ROW

"This two story house," according to JHT, "was built in 1878, by George Henry Welch, for his own occupancy." George had married Clara B. Gould at Haverhill in 1873, and she died there in 1936, but nothing further is known about them. By 1892 the property stood in the name of John J. Watson from Cape Breton, who married Eliza Perkins. He was assessed for it in 1928 and was living as a widower, with his son, Allen, on Valley Road in 1929. By 1935 Thomas Emerson Proctor had acquired the property and was assessed for it in 1944.

From 1948-1953, Harold P. Mills, Jr. and Alice lived there and in 1954 Richard Wyman, printer, and his wife, Virginia, bought the property. Since 1977 it has been owned and occupied by Robert D. Buzza and Karen Malfy, both in Government work. (Bk.6387, pg.661)

Just about opposite to #31 formerly stood a two story house built in the eighteenth century and owned by Timothy Perkins in 1718. In 1738 it was taxed to Jonathan, his son, a brick-layer by trade, who was killed by a fall from a chimney in 1749. David Perkins, Town Treasurer in later years, acquired the property in 1759-60 and it stayed in the Perkins family for a hundred years. In 1861, the Rev. Francis Welch bought the house and lived there until 1883, when it was sold to the Rev. George Gleason (1885-1922). Mr. and Mrs. Gleason died in the early twenties and the property was bought by Thomas E. Proctor. The house has been gone many years (See #78 High Street).

A short distance easterly of the above mentioned Perkins-Welch-Gleason house, another two story house of the eighteenth century stood. It was taxed to Stephen Perkins in 1749. In 1791 his grandson, Nathaniel Perkins Averill, sold it to Nathaniel Hammond, who was prominent in town affairs. Nathaniel Hammond, Jr. owned it after his father's death in 1842. The house was finally taken down by 1887 by Josiah P. Perkins, who owned the house now numbered #64 Perkins Row.

#64 PERKINS ROW

JHT writes, "The two story house known as the 'Josiah P. Perkins place' was built for Dudley Perkins in 1855, by Jacob Foster, an old two story house being taken down the same year."

Josiah was the son of Dudley (see History of Topsfield) and Sarah (Perkins) Perkins, and grandson of Elijah Perkins and Ruth (Fiske) Perkins. Dudley died at the age of 83 by an accident, and Josiah inherited the property for which he was assessed in 1892. He lived until 1912, but during the 1890's he sold the house to Dr. Henry F. Sears, who had the property surveyed in 1901, and sold it, sometime before 1908, when it was assessed to Thomas E. Proctor. Thomas Pierce, farmer for Mr. Proctor, lived there until 1945, when Proctor began to cut back on the operation of his large estate.

Philip Wade, farmer, bought the property in 1947 and lived there with his wife, Marjorie, until 1956, when it was



64 Perkins Row.



87 Perkins Row.

sold to Benjamin C. Pollard, lawyer, of Newtonville. The Town suggested taking land and moving the stonewall behind the trees in order to make room for snow plowing on this very sharp curve, but the Pollards would not cooperate.

In 1965 Dr. Walter S. Levitski, Jr. bought the property and was still living there in 1983.

#67 PERKINS ROW

J. Willard Blades, commercial artist from Swampscott, was owner in 1953. This house, built after World War II, sits far back from the road. Arthur Somes, mechanical engineer from Marblehead, was owner from 1956–1968. William and Marjorie Easton from Ohio bought the property in 1968 and are current owners. The Somes moved to Woodside Road.

#77 PERKINS ROW

John Fraher, druggist, and his wife, Olivia, bought land from T.M. Reynolds, Trustee for the Proctor estate, in 1951, and built at this address, selling off the lots numbered 79, 81, 83 and 85.

#87 PERKINS ROW

JHT writes, "The present (1902) two story house was built for Samuel Bradstreet in 1771. Before the house was quite finished, his son, John Bradstreet, was born here, December 9, 1771. This house was remodeled for its present owner in 1899–1900 by John H. Potter. The present barn and stable was built in 1835, and was thoroughly remodeled in 1898–1899, and several outbuildings were also built at that time by the same carpenter. The large barn, 112 feet long, which stood south of the road and nearly opposite the present barn, was taken down by Samuel Bradstreet some time after 1835, when the present barn was built."

In 1900, the owner referred to by Towne was Thomas E. Proctor. He and his mother lived in this house until her passing, at which time Mr. Proctor moved to the house formerly owned by Dr. Sears, which stood westerly of Perkins Row, not far from what is now Audubon Drive.

In 1914, Mr. Proctor had the Bradstreet house remodeled, and after his move to the former Sears' house, his chauff-

feur, Peter Kilhouley, occupied the house, now used by the Audubon Society.

For more information on Mr. Proctor's many contributions to the Town and his interest in horticulture, see HC Vol. XXXII.

#121 PERKINS ROW

The two story house, according to JHT, was built for Dudley Quinn Perkins in 1872, by Jacob Foster, on the site of an old two story house. Dudley Quinn Perkins was the older brother of Josiah, whose house we have listed as #64 Perkins Row. These brothers were sons of Dudley and Sarah Perkins — so it is easy to see where the name Perkins Row arose. The house was assessed to Thomas E. Proctor in 1908 for \$1,000.00.

In 1950, Thomas M. Reynolds, Executor for the Proctor Estate sold this house to Alfred W. Halverson, who lived in it briefly and sold in 1955 to Gerald W. Cleversey, design engineer, from Hamilton. The Cleverseys still own after a quarter of a century. They have made no structural changes, but the old school house (see #135) had to be torn down.

#127 PERKINS ROW

This one story house was originally part of the Thomas E. Proctor compound, but does not show on the 1901 plan made for Dr. Sears. It was converted into a dwelling by Richard Skeffington in 1976, for rental.

#129 PERKINS ROW

This two story house was another part of the Proctor domain, which shows on the 1901 plan of the Sears' estate. Richard Skeffington, Jr. has lived in it since 1967.

#130-145 PERKINS ROW

These houses were all built since 1960.

Behind the present #138 formerly stood "the grey shingled homestead" of Dr. Henry F. Sears, built in 1901, together with the extensive greenhouse in which Mr. Proctor cultivated not only many varieties of flowers, but cared for many im-

ported plants and trees until the grounds outside were ready for them. After his mother's death, Mr. Proctor moved down from the Bradstreet house (see #87 Perkins Row) and lived here. When his estate was finally settled by Thomas Reynolds, Executor, Richard Skeffington bought a large portion of it, and had the land sub-divided. The Sears house was too large for the type of development envisioned, and Skeffington had it demolished. JHT writes, "Nearly opposite the driveway leading to the house, formerly stood a school-house which was built in 1794, on land of Robert Perkins, at a cost of £37.8.6.(see #286 Boston Street). In 1847, the last 'East School House' was built by Capt. Israel D. Elliott and Samuel Clarke, — a little back from the road and northerly from the Sears' residence. Samuel S. McKenzie taught his last singing school in this school house in 1880." In 1902 it was moved to #121 Perkins Row and used as a poultry house.

#153 PERKINS ROW

JHT writes, "The farm house, long known as the 'poor farm' and which was sold by the Town to its present (1902) owner in 1901, was built for Deacon Solomon Dodge* in 1769. It was bought of Cyrus Cummings, April 5, 1822, by the Town of Topsfield, and used as an almshouse until it passed to its present owner. In this vicinity lived John Redington, Town Clerk, whose house, containing the Town records, was destroyed by fire in 1658."

The owner, referred to by Towne, was Dr. Henry F. Sears, who sold to Mr. Proctor before 1908. The Executor of Mr. Proctor's estate sold the house to William Jeffrey, art dealer. His widow, Virginia, was still there in 1983.

**Mr. Dodge rode his horse to Lexington and Concord in 1775, and later served under General Washington. See H 170, 172, 178, etc.*

#154-184 PERKINS ROW

All these houses were built between 1958 and 1964.

The early settlement by Ipswich residents of the area first called 'the New Meadows' (which an Indian pronounced She Newe Medy) was near Mile Brook, southerly of Perkins Row. Governor Bradstreet had Mile Brook as a westerly boundary,



153 Perkins Row in 1900.



153 Perkins Row in 1989.

so William Averill's purchase in 1663, of a farm must have been west of the brook. William had two sons, who bought 200 acres from Gov. Bradstreet in February, 1692, which was close to William's homestead, and built a mill-dam. Locus: Massachusetts Audubon Society Wildlife Sanctuary.

According to John H. Towne, "the mill remained in the Averill family until 1835, when it was sold to Porter Bradstreet. See H.C. Vol. II., pg.87. The last mill, which was owned by B. Austin Perkins, was destroyed by an incendiary fire on the night of February 22, 1891."

Nearby, on the south side of the brook, there was a one story house moved from the Cass farm on River Road, which William Munday donated for Mrs. Mehitable Averill Bickford in 1827. Granny Bickford had been living in the Nathaniel Averill house on the other side of the brook, but when it became delapidated, Col. Porter Bradstreet and his brother, Dudley, who were near neighbors, moved the house and fitted it up for her. This house was finally torn down in 1891.

To quote Towne again: "About three hundred feet northeasterly of the sawmill is the cellar of the Nathaniel Averill house, which was built, it is supposed, shortly after the Averill brothers bought the farm. It was a large two story house and appears in the 1744 tax list. Capt. Moses Averill, familiarly known as 'Priest Averill' lived here and rebuilt the sawmill." He finally removed to Middleton. Mrs. Bickford (see above) was the last tenant before the house was torn down in 1828. Nathaniel had a wheelwright shop nearby.

In 1902, when Towne was writing, various cellar-holes were still visible in this area, but since Proctor's and the Audubon's ownership, these have been lost to sight, so I shall simply list the names of the property owners which he mentions:

Jacob Averill, 1745 and 1798. Daniel and Solomon Averill, taxed 1798. Daniel died in 1838. Cyrus bought the house from the Administrator of Daniel's estate in 1841. It was torn down in 1843. An old shoe shop was removed about 1845-46 to what is now #362 Boston Street (q.v.) by Cyrus Peabody.

Jacob Averill died in 1807 and his house converted to a shop. In 1840 it was sold to Samuel Todd and J. Perkins

Towne who removed it to what is now #38 High Street and reconverted it to a dwelling.

Jeremiah Averill, 1768, assessed for house and shop.

Luke Averill, 1744. Isaac Averill, 1776, had two sons, Joe and Luke.

J. Albert Blaisdell, 1891, last occupant of Joe and Luke's house.

#185 PERKINS ROW

This one and a half story house was built for Stuart and Pauline Kleinfelter of Beverly in 1958. No old foundation was visible at the time, but according to JHT, a "two story house, now (1900) occupied by Ephraim P. Ferguson was built for Humphrey Wildes in 1835, and his heirs sold the same to Moses B. Perkins in 1865-66, who remodeled it somewhat during his ownership. For several years past it has been known at the James H. Sleeper place." Ada MacCracken of Newburyport was the owner in 1900 and sold to Thomas E. Proctor. Ferguson moved to #13 Main Street.

#186-193 PERKINS ROW

Built between 1966 and 1973.

#194 PERKINS ROW

According to John H. Towne's "Houses of Topsfield", published in 1902, approximately here "formerly stood a two story house owned and occupied by the Wildes family. From it, Sarah Wildes, accused of witchcraft, was taken to Salem jail by her step-son, Ephraim Wildes, then constable of the town. The house was last occupied by Humphrey Wildes, who built the house nearby and now occupied by Ephraim Ferguson (see note under #185 Perkins Row). The old house was taken down in the fall of 1835."

#202-235 PERKINS ROW

All houses built subsequent to 1955.

The area easterly of Averill Street and northerly of Perkins Row was originally a large farm. A short distance from the intersection, in 1744, stood a house taxed to William

Perkins, whose son, Oliver, appears to have bought it, as William's heirs sold it in 1789, and Oliver sold it five years later to Moses Bradstreet. Moses' daughter, Lydia, married Nehemiah Perkins, who appears to have been unrelated to Oliver. Nehemiah had a large family: two of his sons were born twenty-one years apart, in this house. A third son, born in 1833, graduated from Dartmouth College and became Principal of Phillips Exeter. John Wright Perkins, the younger son, went to Harvard and became Principal of Dummer Academy and later, Supt. of Schools in Salem. Their birth-place was burned in an incendiary fire in January, 1891.

All dwellings from #236 on to Winsor Lane intersection were built after 1970.

#277 PERKINS ROW

In 1960, Victoria T. Steward of Asbury Street donated land for an elementary school building, and in the annual Town Meeting in March, 1961, funds were voted to obtain plans. The buildings were constructed in 1962.

Use of the Steward School classrooms started in January, 1963, allowing temporary quarters in the village to be vacated.

#327 PERKINS ROW

The present house, occupied by the Thompson's, as caretakers for the mansion at #333 Perkins Row, is over 200 years old. JHT gives the following information about the area which includes the earliest portion of the Town to be settled:

"A two story house stood near this site which was sold by the heirs of Thomas Howlett* to Thomas Cummings, May 6, 1763, and the heirs of Thomas Cummings sold the same to Abraham Hobbs in 1767. The Hobbs family lived in this house for several years, until one night in the fall of 1780, as shown by the town records, when the old Howellett-Cummings-Hobbs house was entirely destroyed by a fire caused by the upsetting of a light in the attic, where the owner kept a litter of puppies. The present house was probably built the following year, as it was taxed in 1782. Sometime afterwards, a shop was built near the road, in which it is said 'Master' George Hobbs made wooden plows. This place passed out of



327 Perkins Row.



333 Perkins Row as seen from Ipswich Road.

the Hobbs name May 10, 1826, when it was sold to Moses Wildes, who conveyed the same to Joseph Adams, March 10, 1829. Mr. Adams owned it for several years and finally sold to Benjamin Robinson†, April 15, 1842. It was during his ownership that the house was thoroughly remodeled. His heirs sold the property about 1874" Towne winds up his comments with the statement that "it has had several different owners up to the time of this writing."

As a matter of fact, there appear to have been some six transfers between 1874 and 1883 when Mary Mulligan, wife of Barnard, who apparently farmed the property until his death in 1909, at which time it passed to S. Herbert Wilkins (Bk.1974, pg.456). Wilkins turned it over in a matter of months to John S. Lawrence (See #76 Campmeeting Road).

Lawrence sold the area south of Ipswich Road in 1923 (Bk.2569, pg.272-3) to Amory and Eloise Lawrence and they to Anne Steward of Asbury Street in 1941. Her son, Campbell Steward, built the mansion at #333 Perkins Row after World War II and #327 has been used as a caretakers lodge for the various owners since the building of the mansion.

**It is not clear to which Thomas Howlett reference is made. The first one in Topsfield was one of the twelve men who accompanied Governor Winthrop's son, John, to Agawam to settle what became Ipswich, but that was one hundred thirty years earlier. That Thomas had a son, William, and a grandson, Thomas, who died young, and the property went to a cousin, named John. Another Thomas Howlett, born in 1716 may have been in John's line, but the transfer referred to was 17 years after his death.*

† Benjamin Robinson, born in Marblehead, farmed the property at the southerly side of Ipswich Road and on both sides of Howlett Brook for thirty years, and raised a family here. His daughter, Mary T. Robinson, never married and presumably kept house for her mother at #66 Campmeeting Road after the farm was sold in 1874.

#333 PERKINS ROW

This two and one half story brick mansion was built in 1965 for Campbell Steward, son of Gilbert, of Asbury Street. The main house, flanked by an ell on each end and set far back from the road, overlooks the Ipswich River meadows between Howlett Brook and Mile Brook. Mr. Steward is an electronics executive and spent comparatively little time in

Topsfield, although a native of the town.

In 1975 the property was sold to Lutz and Waltraud Wallem of West Germany, who turned it over in 1979 to William and Vera Moore, who had been living in Switzerland. (See #327 Perkins Row.)

PINE STREET

#5 PINE STREET

JHT writes, "This one story house was originally about the last building that remained at 'The Colleges'* proper, off Perkins Row. It was a shoe shop standing in the locusts and belonged to the estate of Daniel Averill, Jr. Nehemiah Perkins, the administrator of his estate, sold it to Cyrus Peabody about 1845-6, who had it removed to his place, on the Newburyport Turnpike, now (1901) owned by Benjamin C. Dodd. There it was used as a shop for several years and then was sold to Salmon D. Hood, Esq., who had it removed to his place on Hood's Pond. After remaining there for several years, and being used as a shoe shop, it was bought by George Shepard and again moved to its present site. The land had been owned by the heirs of Amos S. Chapman. Here it has been used as a dwelling, an addition having been built on after its last removal."

**See note under #38 High Street.*

Amos Chapman, a farmer from Ipswich, had married Eliza Perkins of Topsfield, and probably the land which Shepard bought in 1884 for the above much-travelled house, was part of her family's property on Haverhill Road.

Pine Street was laid out by the County Engineer in 1872. This would account for the odd shape of the lot which was cut off from the rest of the farm to the north.

Shepard owned the property for about three years and sold to Charles Carmody, who kept it until 1914, when it passed to Lucy Clay (Bk.2252, pg.176). Charles Witham bought it for \$430.00 at a foreclosure sale in 1917, but was not listed as living there until 1936. In July, 1948, Witham sold to Joseph Leadbetter (Bk.3614, pg.490), but no one appears to have occupied the house until 1954, when Harold

Fellows and family moved in. They stayed until 1965, when Joseph E. Dionne and family took over. Joseph is still resident in 1983.

#10 PINE STREET

The land on which this house stands was one with that of numbers 12 and 14 which Isabella Ford acquired about 1906. (Through her mother she was a cousin to the Chapman heirs, who owned #5 Pine Street.) It was surveyed in 1924, registered in the Land Court in 1930, and partitioned in 1951 by Charles A. Celander. A house must have been built in 1953 as James F. and Phyllis W. Piper were listed there on January 1, 1955. They were followed by the Harold Lewis family for ten years, when Robert W. Skeffington moved from Walker Road and continued there until he built his new home on North Street in 1974. Heritage Ventures took over the Pine Street property in 1977 and held until 1982, when it was bought by Janice and Alexander Molin of Lowell.

#12 PINE STREET

See #10 Pine Street for the land title prior to 1953 when Raymond J. Connor, Jr. acquired the mid-portion of the original survey and built a house which was acquired by J. William and Barbara Jolly in 1958. In 1967, Howard L. and Mary Stultz moved from the Donation Farm on Cross Street and made this their retirement home. Going strong in 1983.

#14 PINE STREET

Raymond J. Connor, Jr., contractor, owned the land on which he built this house and sold to Kenneth and Irene Mills in 1952. The Mills lived here until 1961, when Thomas Connelly bought the house and moved in, and is still resident in 1983.

PINE RIDGE ROAD

All the houses were built by Robert W. Simms on land he acquired in 1956, and were occupied before the road was accepted in 1958. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

POND STREET

#8 POND STREET (See Map 9)

JHT writes, "This one story house, which has been remodeled several times, was built about the middle of the 18th century. It was taxed to John Hood in 1758. The farm has been in the possession of the family for nearly two centuries. This has long been the home of S. D. Hood, Esq., who has been a prominent citizen in town affairs for the past thirty-five years, and who has also engaged in settling estates for upwards of forty years. (See HC Vol VII, p.76, line 14)."

Salmon D. Hood was the grandson of John Hood who enlisted at the age of fourteen, in 1775, and fought in nine battles of the American Revolution. Salmon was born in this house in 1830 and died in Haverhill in 1908. In 1923, his son, Ralph, was assessed for the house, barn and a shed as well as meadow land on the west side of Haverhill Road, but he was living in Haverhill. Salmon's son, Wilbur, and grandson, Roy, lived at #18 Central Street.

By 1928 the property had passed to Metha K. Winchester of Lynn, and she kept the house while her husband, W. W. Winchester, took over most of the land and started subdividing it with frontage on Linebrook Road.

In 1943, Metha died and her husband and son continued to live in the house until 1945.

In 1946 Robert and Anne Ives of Grove Street acquired title to the house and the balance of the subdivided land. The barn and shed were gone, and they moved the house back twenty-five feet from the road onto higher ground adding an ell on the west end, a porch on the east end and a utility room at the rear. The central chimney with fireplaces of the original house have been eliminated.

In 1953 Otino, lithographer, and Jean S. Caso acquired title and have lived in it to date. Jean is the daughter of Alexander Cleary of Lockwood Lane.

#13 POND STREET (See Map 9)

The present one and a half story house, about 40 years old, is located near the site of a small camp built somewhere between 1926 and 1930. The property, part of the Salmon

D. Hood holdings, at the beginning of the twentieth century, had no buildings when conveyed in 1911. A plan by T.A. Appleton, in 1933, shows a house, about 35 by 50 feet, which was bought by William Winchester (Bk.2955, pg.475) in 1933. A fire destroyed the camp, and in 1946, Winchester sold to Russell Card, probably a builder, who turned it over the same year to W.D. Gaskell, sales manager.

In 1954, Francis and Joan Daigle, of Lynn, bought it and lived there for ten years, selling in 1964 to Peter and Margaret Ober of Wakefield. They stayed only four years and turned it over to Robert J. Ross, Clergyman, from Maine (Bk.5571, pg.767). In 1970, another clergyman, Christopher Raible, and his wife, Patricia, a librarian, bought the house and held for seven years. Present owners are Thomas J., design engineer, and Nathalie K., librarian, Anderson.

#14 POND STREET (See Map 9)

This one and a half story house was built on land which Earl Wilner bought from W.W. Winchester in 1939, but was not occupied until 1943. He lived there with his family until 1949, after which it appears to have been vacant until Wilson and Jeanne Cain moved in, in 1957, staying until 1962. They were followed by Louis E. and Bridget Gleason, who remained until 1965, when Paul, an electrician, and Virginia D. Worobey acquired title. Current owner is Virginia Worobey.

PORTER MEADOW ROAD

Laid out in 1958. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

PROCTOR DRIVE

Laid out in 1961. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)



11 Prospect Street.



17 Prospect Street.

PROSPECT STREET

#11 PROSPECT STREET (See Map 5)

Concerning this house, JHT writes, "This two story house was formerly in the Perkins family and is without doubt two hundred or more years old (1901). Of late years it has been known as the Hubbard House. The house was remodeled in 1887 by its owner, Samuel H. Dane, and when the old chimney was taken down, a brick was found, dated 1680."

In 1902 Job Frame, who bought, sold and mortgaged property in town, held title and his widow was assessed for it in 1928, after which it passed to Thomas Longo, father-in-law of the present owner, Martha Longo.

The house was located on its present foundation, before Prospect Street was laid out as a public way, with gates.

#13 PROSPECT STREET (See Map 5)

This one story house and garage were built in 1949, on land cut from the property of Thomas Longo, and is still occupied by Joseph Longo, son of the original family.

#17 PROSPECT STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for John G. Hood, in 1856, by Daniel Willey and I.M. Small. This property was sold by the Hood heirs to Caleb K. Perkins, March 28, 1859, and his widow sold the same to William G. Lake, March 20, 1889."

In 1901, and 1923 it was still assessed to William Lake, in 1928 to his son, Clarence, who left it to the wife of his brother, Benjamin. Helen Lake sold to Anthony Gangi, in 1949 and he divided the land, selling the house to the Archbishop, but keeping a driveway from Prospect Street into the rear part of the lot on which he built for himself. In 1956, he abandoned the driveway in exchange for an equal area and used the newly extended Gail Street for access. The house is used by the Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese for the local priest and the barn was converted to a meeting room.

#18 PROSPECT STREET

"This large one story (one and a half by present defini-

tion) house, long known as the Sanderson house, was built for Mrs. Sally Sanderson, in 1845, by Constantine McKenzie. It was the first house that John H. Potter helped to build, he being then an apprentice, aged 22 years." This is all that John H. Towne has to say in 1901, except that the property stood in the name of William Ladd Dodge. This name does not appear in any vital records of Topsfield, nor in the Assessors lists of 1892 or 1908, so perhaps he was a summer resident for a brief time.

In 1908 Dr. Thomas L. Jenkins had acquired the property and was assessed for the house, a barn and chicken house, together with 5 and a half acres. Dr. Jenkins was called of Topsfield when he married Lucy Maud Garbutt in 1902. He had two daughters born in Topsfield, and he died in 1940, in Maine, having sold the property to George L. Goodridge, of the Essex County Coop, in 1935.

George and Charlotte Goodridge partitioned the land in 1948 and built a new house at #28. Thomas and Isabelle Sewell, from California, occupied #18 from 1949 to 1952, when Clayton Rock, Personnel Supervisor at General Electric, bought it and lived there until 1975, when he died in New Hampshire. Roy A. Brown, Jr. owned the house in 1980.

#27 PROSPECT STREET

"This two story house," writes JHT, "was built for Andrew Gould in 1860, by John H. Potter. Mr. Gould was a prominent man in town affairs and died here in 1896, aged 90 years, nine months and 25 days."

The property has been in one family for 125 years. Eunice Campbell is the great grand-daughter of Andrew Gould by her mother, Ruth (Gould) Murray. Structural changes have been limited — a dormer window or two added and the porch rebuilt and glassed in. The large detached barn, typical of the nineteenth century, is used for a garage. In 1660 the land was part of Zaccheus Gould's purchase. He came from Hemel Hempstead in England. Present owners are Curtis and Eunice Gould (Murray) Campbell.

NOTE: Andrew Gould had twin sons, Horace and Herbert, born in 1848. Horace died in infancy; Herbert mar-



27 Prospect Street.



8 Pond Street.

ried Laura A. Conley of Boxford in 1871. Their daughter, Ruth Mabel, born 1880, married H. Franklin Murray. Herbert Gould died in 1922, and Laura was assessed for the house until her death in 1929.

Franklin and Ruth had a daughter, Eunice, not recorded in Topsfield, who married Curtis Campbell, C.P.A.. They moved into the house on Prospect Street in the mid-thirties. Curtis served on the Finance Committee from 1941 to 1952; has been Commissioner of Trust Funds since 1971; and was President of the Topsfield Historical Society for many years. In 1946 the Campbells bought #49 Prospect Street and the house at #27 was occupied by Mr. Murray, who had married a second time in 1947. After his second wife's death in 1958, the property was rented for several years to Dudley and Bonnie Wiegand. In 1962, the Campbells returned from Beverly and have occupied this family property up to the present (1983).

#28 PROSPECT STREET

This one and a half story house with attached garage was built for George L. Goodridge in 1948 while he was living at #18 Prospect Street. In 1964 Mr. Goodridge sold. The current owners are retired Swampscott school teachers.

#48 PROSPECT STREET

The house which formerly stood on this site, and which was removed to #63 Prospect Street, came originally from River Road on property which Miss Cummings must have bought from Samuel Conley after her mansion was built in 1909. Conley moved to #19 South Main Street in 1916. John H. Towne writes about it on River Road: "This one story house was built for A. Austin Lake in 1874, by Warren Prince of Beverly. About half way between the house and the street, and in a line with the Walsh house, have been found evidences of a cellar, indicating the location of a house, which is said to be the site of one of the Stanley houses." The reference in Vol. XV indicates the owner who moved it was Fred E. Watson, the year, 1909.

#49 PROSPECT STREET

"This two story house," according to JHT, "was built for Charles H. Lake in 1866, by John H. Potter, who had built the stable for him in 1865. Mr. Lake at one time, had about them, extensive nurseries of fruit and ornamental trees. He sold the property to Richard Price and Octavius B. Shreve March, 15, 1872."

Mr. Price died in 1886, aged 45 and the property was assessed to his heirs. His wife died in 1924 and the three daughters received the property, which included two dwellings and 53 acres of land in various parcels. In 1926, Edith and Josephine Price set off #63 Prospect Street for their hired help, and their younger sister, Jane, who had married Henry B. Northey in 1911, was living at #65 Prospect Street.

In 1946, Eunice Campbell (see #27 Prospect Street) purchased #49 with about 6 acres of land (Bk.3496, pg.349) where she resided with her family until 1957, when it was sold to Arnold Lawson (Bk.4402, pg.322). The house was thoroughly renovated in 1946, and a cupola removed. The house was connected by shed to the barn. Present owners are Ann and Arnold Lawson, Jr. The Campbells removed to Beverly.

#52 PROSPECT STREET

This two story house was built in 1901 as a garage for the house at #58 Prospect Street. The lower portion has brick walls. In 1928 it was assessed to John L. Saltonstall, by whom it was sold to Daniel Ward, in real estate, who remodeled it into a dwelling, and occupied it until 1957, when it was sold to Lester and Lucy Peterson, from Peabody. They held for some fifteen years, and during the mid-70's it was occupied by F. Richard Wiedner of Brookline, who sold to Joseph and Maureen Geller.

#58 PROSPECT STREET

This two and a half story house was built for Percy Chase as a summer residence in 1899. In 1923 it was assessed to Annie Gilmer, together with the two stables and 7 and ¼ acres of land, all of which John L. Saltonstall had acquired by 1928 (See #68 River Road). In 1941 the Saltonstalls moved



58 Prospect Street in 1900.



58 Prospect Street in 1989.

from the house on River Road and occupied the house on Prospect Street. In November, 1949, the Prospect Street house was sold to Lawrence and Gertrude Steiman (Bk.3707, pg.587) while the building at #52, together with most of the land, was sold to Daniel Ward.

The Steiman's held the house* until 1969, when they departed from town. A fairly serious kitchen fire got into an air duct and burned out the center of the house during the Steiman's occupancy. Dr. Richard and Joanne McKeage of Salem lived there about a year when the current owner, Robert Gibeley, bought it.

**Fred and Deborah Moulton occupied an apartment while building #129 Main Street.*

#63 PROSPECT STREET

This one story house stands on the site of a small cottage which was moved from #48 Prospect Street (see note). Mrs. Ford, who lived at #65, had the old house torn down and built the present one for some of her employees, during the 1970's.

Edith and Josephine Price lived in the old house until 1963 when William Coolidge acquired it and put it into the River Road Charitable Trust. (Bk.6666, pg.409)

#65 PROSPECT STREET

In 1911, Jane Price of #49 Prospect Street married Henry B. Northey, of Salem, and lived in a house far back from the road, probably built for them on this site. Jane survived her husband and the property was held until 1968.

Mrs. Keyo Ford had the present house built in 1968-69. On the lot at #63 she had the old house removed and a new one built. There seems to be a question whether she asked permission of Mr. Coolidge who has an agreement to control the use of it. Mrs. Ford, of Japanese extraction, died in 1977, after which the house was idle until Frank and Louise Brenton moved in from Maine in 1979 (Bk.6516, p.470).

#73 PROSPECT STREET

"This two story house was taxed to Zaccheus Gould as early as 1744. The easterly end, according to the records of

the late John Gould, was built about 1670. The western half of the present house was built in the early part of the 18th century. At the easterly end of the house, and where the piazza now is, there was built, before 1798, an addition that was styled in deeds 'an appendage' which was owned and occupied, in 1831 by William R. Hubbard, the singer, who had married Mary Averill two years before. After living here a few years he removed to Danvers and sold the 'appendage', in 1844, to Mrs. Anna H. Sweeney, wife of Charles Sweeney. It remained in her name until January 5, 1880, when she sold it to Mr. Stevens, who took down the building. A barn near the house was struck by lightning July 1900, and burned, the house narrowly escaping destruction." See HC Vol. VII, p.74, line 23.

The Mr. Stevens referred to above was Albert, who had married Annie Lake in 1867. He died in 1912, and Annie in 1925, by which time she had sold the property to Mary Northey, of Salem, and moved to Central Street.

Mary was the wife of William Northey and mother of John, the present owner, who moved from #32 High Street in 1962.

Across the street from the Stevens house may be seen the cellar of the house of Henry Lake, weaver. This house was probably built about 1681, at the time of his marriage with Priscilla Wildes. The house had disappeared before 1798.

RIDGEVIEW ROAD

This road was laid out in 1973 as part of the Red Pines development and the houses all post-date that date. (See HC Vol. XXXIII) The ridge was a sub-glacial river bed.

RIVER ROAD

#9 RIVER ROAD

JHT writes, "This two story house formerly one story, was taxed to John Balch in 1769, and to his son Cornelius



73 Prospect Street.



9 River Road.

Balch in 1776, and so continued until his death, August 21, 1795. The property then passed to his son-in-law, John Bradstreet, Jr., and May 23, 1833, to his son Cornelius B. Bradstreet and wife Eunice, who had the house raised to two stories about 1851. James H. Sleeper of Danvers, was the carpenter. Mr. Bradstreet died July 23, 1858, and his widow sold the property September 5, 1873 to William P. Walsh, who had the house remodeled somewhat in 1874. A part of this farm was owned by William Towne, "the Ancestor", in 1652."

There was a John Balch married in 1767, in Topsfield, so the house was probably built about that time. The William P. Walsh mentioned by Towne, was assessed for the house, barn, shop, ice house and some 65 acres, all told. (See family connections under #93 River Road.) He lived until 1919, but by 1923, most of the land had gone to John L. Saltonstall. William R. Walsh, a son, kept the house and ¼ acre of land on River Road.

In 1935, the house stood in the name of William H. Walsh, son of William R. Walsh, who had died in 1930. In 1937, Harold Walsh, son of William R. still occupied the house, but by 1944 it was assessed to Frederick B. Sears, Jr.. Richard and Marcia (Kerr) Ingraham were tenants from 1938 to the time of her death in 1968, and Richard continued on after his second marriage.

In March, 1936, all of New England was subject to the worst flooding in seventy years, due to a week of rain on the remains of a snowy winter. River Road was shut off by high water in the Ipswich River which extended all the way to South Main Street.

William A. Coolidge leases the property to Richard Ingraham et ux.

#11 RIVER ROAD

This small house was built in 1949 by Frederick Sears for Luther Robinson, a gardener on the Sear's estate. In 1967 it stood in the name of the River Road Charitable Trust (Bk.3765, p.10), and was transferred to MIT (Bk.7448, p.593).

Between #11 and #38 there was a house, now long gone, in the name of Moses Downes. See HC Vol. VIII, p.55. A barn on the property burned in 1908.

#31 RIVER ROAD

This one story cottage is shown in the picture of the Webster place (Essex County Atlas 1884) with its bell tower, as located behind #70 River Road. It was probably moved by Mr. Saltonstall. It is presently occupied by Mary Sargent, secretary to Mr. Coolidge.

#45 RIVER ROAD

This one and a half story house with large gable dormer windows toward the front was originally located on South Main Street at what would be #111 now. According to JHT it was built in 1851, for Miles Sweeney by Samuel Clark. Miles died in 1876, and his widow, Muldah, in 1883, after which it went to his niece, Dora (Sweeney) Poole, who was living there in 1902. (See #68 River Road, paragraph 5.)

#68 RIVER ROAD

For the house that formerly occupied this site, JHT writes as follows: "This one story house was taxed to Daniel Lake in 1768. He sold the property to Henry Bradstreet, March 30, 1769, who owned it until his death which occurred September 2, 1818. The Bradstreet heirs sold to Erastus Clarke, April 23, 1829, and he sold the same to Charles Mansfield, October 1, 1852. Mr. Mansfield conveyed the property, November 20, 1855, to George W. Reid and Charles H. Tyler, trustees for Eliza Ricker. After her decease the said trustees conveyed it to Sarah J. Beal, June 2, 1863, and she sold it to Albert Webster, candy manufacturer, June 12, 1867. During his ownership he built several new buildings. He died November 8, 1902. For picture of the land and buildings see Essex County Atlas, Philadelphia, 1871. See HC Vol. VII, p.63, line 28."

Mr. Webster died the year Towne wrote his "Topsfield Houses and Buildings". Mary Webster's death is not recorded in Topsfield, but in 1920, the property passed to her sisters as heirs to her estate, and they turned it over to George Grantham.

George Grantham does not appear to have lived in Topsfield, but he acquired a number of parcels of land, all contiguous, which he conveyed to John L. Saltonstall later in 1920.

Mr. Saltonstall, a Boston lawyer, had the present mansion built during his first marriage with Gladys Rice of New York. He was married a second time in 1928 to Margaret Tucker, who had four children born in Topsfield. In 1911-12 he represented Beverly and Danvers in the Legislature; during the World War he served in the U.S. Naval Reserve as Lt. Commander.

None of the deeds, except one in which the mansion is included, mentioned any buildings, but the house now numbered #45 River Road, was located on South Main Street and was moved across the fields to its present site. Going up the grade the house slipped off its support and nearly came to disaster. It was occupied by managers of the estate, among them Dana Killam in the 30's and John Hurley, from World War II until the mid-70's.

In 1940 Mr. Saltonstall moved to #58 Prospect Street and sold the mansion and most of the original lots to Frederick Sears, Jr. of Palm Beach, Florida (Bk.3235, p.372). #31 was rented at one time to John Northey and later to Chet Carter. The present tenant is Mary E. Sargent, Executive Secretary to Mr. Coolidge. (See #58 Prospect Street.)

The cottage is probably about 100 years old. In the 19th century, there was a bell hung above the ridge pole, perhaps for farm purposes.

In 1948, William A. Coolidge acquired the property from the Sear's estate. A Harvard graduate, 1924, an LLB in 1936, a retired investment councillor, his interests are wide and varied. In addition to the property he bought from Sears, he has acquired other large holdings in Topsfield, and formed what was called the River Road Charitable Trust. For a number of years the Trust operated an experimental farm, but in 1984 the land south of the river was turned over to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Coolidge, a bachelor, still maintains his home in the mansion which is a veritable art museum.

#70 RIVER ROAD

This one story building, built on land that was always part of the estate at #68 since Albert Webster owned it, and termed the Farm House on the Assessors' records, was occupied by chauffeurs for Mr. Saltonstall during his ownership. Since 1949 it has been home for Patrick Goggin, houseman, and his family. Located on a separate driveway from #68, it is not as far back from the road as the mansion, but has a good view looking down the valley.

(INTERSECTION WITH PROSPECT STREET)

#82 RIVER ROAD

This two and a half story brick mansion was built for Miss Margaret Cummings, of Boston, in 1909, by Charles Kimball Cummings, her architect brother. The garage and cottage were built about the same time, but Miss Cummings used the place as a summer house until about 1927, after which she became a registered voter in Topsfield. She was 89 years of age when she died in 1965, and was buried in Cambridge.

The cottage was occupied by Margaret Fridden, who had acted as secretary to Miss Cummings, until 1967. Elmer and Caroline Foye have rented it since 1968. The main house was occupied by Kenneth B. Kunhardt briefly, and since 1971, by Richard Perkins, but the property stands in the name of William Coolidge, of #68 River Road.

#93 RIVER ROAD

"This two story house was built for Eleazer Lake, Jr. in 1808. About 1845, a large addition was built for his son, Eleazer, equal in size to about one-half of the present house. This property, after it passed from the Lake name, was sold by Thomas Fuller, November 17, 1890, to Albert W. Stevens. The property was taxed to John F. Miller of Boston, May 1, 1892. It was finally sold by Albert W. Stevens to William P. Walsh, July 16, 1892." wrote JHT (See #9 River Road).

William P. Walsh had two sons; the younger was William H. Walsh who married, in 1891, Margaret Cullinane. They had five sons and five daughters: Lena married John J. Jack-



68 River Road.



82 River Road.

man and lived here from 1936 to 1960; Margaret married John B. Gamans and lived on South Main Street from 1937 to 1963, when they moved to Prospect Street; Althea married Stepan Tierney and lived on Grove Street; Helen married William Lewis and lived on Central Street; Abby married and moved to California.

Shortly after John Jackman's death in 1960, the house was sold to Richard Shaw (Bk.4921, p.12), who turned it over to John R. Hurley (Bk.5128, p.372). Robert and Susan Mortison bought in 1972. Present owner (1983) is Darbin McGraw.

#95 RIVER ROAD

"This two story house was taxed to Eleazer Lake in 1744. The eastern end was probably built in the early part of the 18th century, and the western part was built sometime afterwards. This property has been in the Lake family for nearly two centuries, as it was bought, February 28, 1717, by Eleazer Lake, of Samuel, John, and Jacob Stanley for £480. See HC Vol.VII, p.77, line 21."

At the time JHT wrote the above, Charles Hobart Lake and his wife were making it their home, as tenants of Sara (Lake) Garrett, widow of William. Charles Lake died at the age of 48 in 1905, and his widow, Mary, bore a son, whom she named Charles Hobart Lake, Jr., but he lived only two months. Mary's name does not appear again in Topsfield records until her death in 1949, at which time she was in Plymouth.

Mrs. Garrett does not appear to have been a close relative of Charles Lake. She continued to be assessed for the property until her death in 1919, and her heirs sold to Grace Blanchard in 1924. In 1932, the property was put in Trust for the use of Miss Anna Kloss, teacher, during her life. In 1978 the property was conveyed to Francis and Jeanne Demers of Andover.

#102 RIVER ROAD

This one and a half story brick ended house was built in or about 1925 for the chauffeur at the Cummings mansion (#82). I have heard the story, but have not had it confirmed,

that the Lake family, which has a private cemetery toward the Ipswich River, and southerly of the mansion, sued Miss Cummings for blocking the access to the burial ground, but that she was willing to have visitors use any other approach across her property. The house was occupied by Joseph Montgomery, chauffeur, from 1946 to 1960, when he died, aged 73. The house has been rented to various tenants since his death. Present owner is William Coolidge.

#114 RIVER ROAD

This two story house was first, and still is, occupied by The Reverend Herman T. Silvius, III. It was built as the Parsonage in 1972, adjoining the Episcopal Church property. The main house is of brick, with a vertical clapboard construction on the ell, and a two car garage attached.

#124 RIVER ROAD

This brick edifice was designed by John W. Peirce, Architect, of Garden Street, Topsfield, in 1957. It is the Trinity Episcopal Church of Topsfield, Boxford and Middleton.

(INTERSECTION WITH ROWLEY BRIDGE ROAD)

#132-136 and 140 RIVER ROAD

These houses (with the exception of #135) were all built subsequent to 1968.

#135 RIVER ROAD

"This two story house was built for Capt. William Munday in 1836. He sold the house and farm to the late Thomas Cass, August 20, 1853, since which time it has remained in the family."

It is interesting to note that Thomas Cass' son, Thomas F., was born in Ireland in 1854, as was his grandson, Thomas E., in 1897, but they both lived in Topsfield. Thomas F. married Fannie F. O'Dea in Danvers in 1890, and it was she who, as a widow, held the property at the time of her death in 1940. William L. Daley bought the house and land from her estate that same year, but did not occupy it until 1944. In 1946 he sold the house and greater part of the land to

Marion K. Bullard of Salem (Bk.3475, p.116).

In 1952, Joseph E. Robins, banker, bought the house and land and occupied it until retirement in 1967, after which the land was subdivided and Homestead Way was laid out between the house and barn. The house was acquired by Ronald J. Marland, contractor, of Melrose in 1969, and he lived here with his family for ten years, selling to Susan S. Salyards of Pembroke.

#139 RIVER ROAD

This large two story house was, originally, the barn on the Cass Farm which included all of the area now served by Homestead Way (see #135 River Road). When Mr. Marland retired, his son Ronald induced him to buy the barn and together they remodeled it into a dwelling, with little structural change other than some steel columns in the basement to support the floor beams. There are three rooms on the main floor, and one bedroom above. The senior Marlands occupy it at this writing.

(INTERSECTION WITH WASHINGTON STREET)

#146 RIVER ROAD

This two story house was assessed in 1923 to Alice Bennett of Lynn. In 1916, William Bennett had built a bungalow facing Washington Street, which was burned upon completion, and Mr. Bennett died that year. His wife, Mary, died in 1921, as listed in the Topsfield Vital Records, so it would seem that a house had been built and occupied by that time.

The house and garage show on a plan prepared by Shay and Leary in 1923, but in 1928, only the garage was assessed. In 1931, William and Florence Sawyer bought the property (Bk.2875, p.291). William was of Boxford, where his grandfather made shoe-pegs in the mid-nineteenth century. Florence died in 1972 and her husband the following year. The property was bought and occupied by Vernon R. Gusmini, formerly of Alderbrook Road.

In 1978 the property turned over again, and a third time in 1980. Present owner is Sandra Howland, from Lynnfield.

#147 and 151 RIVER ROAD

These houses were built subsequent to the Clover Farms development in 1956.

#150 RIVER ROAD

This two story house with ell and attached garage has been on this site since 1976 when Kendall Magee bought it. The house with its ell has had a number of moves since it was built in 1927, for Franklin Killam in Boxford. For its wanderings and use see "Updated Dwellings of Boxford" by Parkhurst and Perley, house 147. The garage was added when it arrived in Topsfield. Mr. Magee, an electrician, still occupies with his family at this time.

#155 RIVER ROAD

The property on which this house stands was sold, in 1911, by Fanny F. Cass to Helen A. Baxter (Bk.2168, p.160) whose husband built a bungalow on it (H.C. Vol. XVII, p.196) and a garage in 1915. In 1944, Mrs. Baxter died and the property was bought by Don King, Master Mechanic and an antique car enthusiast. Presumably he was the one who altered the bungalow to a one and a half story house, which he occupied with his family until 1973, when he sold to Harry and Florence Lear of Beverly, who still occupy at the time of this writing. The Kings moved to Maine.

#156 RIVER ROAD

"This one story house was originally a shoe shop, and was located near the George W. Twitchell house in Boxford. In it, Marion Gould carried on a shoe manufacturing business. In the fall of 1865, it was sold to Benjamin Fuller, who had it removed to its present location, had an addition built, and the whole fitted up for a dwelling-house. The carpenter work was done by Capt. Israel D. Elliott."

At the time JHT wrote the above, the house stood in the name of Benjamin Fuller's heirs. In 1907, Frank L. Smith remodeled the house, and in 1908 it stood in his wife's (Lucretia K.) name. Frank died in 1929, and the house was still assessed to Lucretia in 1944. She passed away in 1952, and the property was bought by the RHL Trust, which subdivided

it. In 1960 John S. Keohane, Jr. of Brookline, Massachusetts, bought the house and has occupied it, with his family, up to the time of this writing.

(BOXFORD TOWN LINE)

ROBERT ROAD

Part of 1951 subdivision off North Street (Green Acres) developed by Richard W. Skeffington, Sr. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

ROSS ROAD

Part of 1952 subdivision off River Road. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

ROWLEY ROAD

Houses with odd numbers between 3 and 13 were built subsequent to the subdivision made in 1965 for the layout of Timber Lane.

Houses with even numbers between 4 and 20 were built subsequent to the subdivision of the area for the Videtta Corp. in 1965.

#15 and 19 ROWLEY ROAD

These houses were built subsequent to the layout of the Stagecoach Road subdivision for Donald Goodwin by John Parsons, C.E., in 1956.

#25 ROWLEY ROAD

"This two story house was, for several generations, in the Dorman family. In 1765 it was taxed to widow Abigail Dorman and her two sons, Nathaniel and Ephraim Dorman. Of late years it has been known as the Asa Bixby (1786-1858) house. There is a tradition that an old house formerly stood

on the west side of this road in what is now a pasture and woodlot. Ref. HC Vol.VII, p.69, line 13.”

On May 8, 1903 the Asa Bixby house burned. At the time JHT wrote the above, the property stood in the name of the Connolly Brothers, the contractors who excavated the area now laid out as Wilmor Road. That same year (HC Vol.X, p.144) the Connollys moved a house from Main Street and remodeled it for a dwelling. In 1906, Whitman & Howard, Civil Engineers, made a plan showing the house and barn on opposite sides of the road, for which the Connolly Brothers of Beverly were taxed. By 1928, it was held by the Connolly Brothers Real Estate Trust, but it is believed that none of them ever lived here.

In 1946, Randolph B. Dodge bought the house and some 64 acres of land (Bk.3443, p.588), which was surveyed by John Parsons of Lynn. Dodge occupied for a short time and sold in 1949 to John F. Loveland (Bk.3669, p.119). The Lovelands occupied until 1954, and sold to Donald Goodwin, of Topsfield, who had the property subdivided and Stagecoach Road laid out.

In 1956, Charles H. Pinkham, III lived here for three years and turned over the property to George H. Hamm, who lived here for ten years. The house was vacant in 1970. The following year Prof. Deane A. Kemper took over and still occupies at this time (1983).

#28 ROWLEY ROAD

This one story house was built on land acquired by Henry D. Oakley from the Connolly Brothers, and sold to William and Priscilla Spakowski in 1949 (Bk.3618, p.511; Bk.3695, p.53), but they did not become residents until 1952. They list themselves as farmers; not retired!

#31 ROWLEY ROAD

This one story house was built for George Poor, Jr., lumber dealer, in 1949, and occupied by his family until 1954. After several changes the houses was purchased by Walter and Grace Johanson in 1959. Grace still occupies after her husband died in 1977.

#47 ROWLEY ROAD

JHT wrote, "Mrs. Rosan Day, Rowley Street. This one story house was originally a barn built for John Perley about 1835, and stood near the farm of the late Nathan Dodge in Linebrook. Mr. Perley had it moved to this site and remodeled into a house for himself in 1840."

The Vital Records of Topsfield do not show what became of Rosan Day, and the house was not assessed to her as of 1908, but in 1923 it had become the property of the Connolly Brothers of Beverly, contractors, who were primarily interested in gravel for construction. The house appears to have been unused for many years when Dr. Hugh F. Broderick moved in from #52 South Main Street. The Broderick family held for ten years and sold to Henry and Diana Esterly. In 1978 Prof. Carl W. Nelson moved from Weston.

NOTE: Rowley Road runs into Linebrook Road, Ipswich, and thus was sometimes called Linebrook Road before Topsfield adopted definite street names.

ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

Houses with odd numbers between 5 and 19 were all built subsequent to 1972.

The road crosses the Ipswich River over the bridge for which the street is named. Boxford was originally part of Rowley.

#63 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

This one story house with gable type dormer was built in the early 1950's for farm help at the Meredith Farm on Cross Street. When the farm became the property of the River Road Charitable Trust, this house was sold to Ross and Helen Howland, in 1972. Present owner is William Boardman, from Middleton.

#65 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

This one story house with attached garage was built for some of the help in the early 1950's, while the Lampert's were

operating the Meredith Farm. In 1980 it was sold to Frank LeGacri.

#69 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

This one and a half story house with multiple window dormers was built in 1920 by Edward Wigglesworth for the farmer who operated the Meredith cattle Farm (see notes on #41 Cross Street).

NOTE: All the houses on the easterly side of the road, the even numbered ones between Cross Street and the intersection with Hill Street, near #180, were built after 1965, when the Meredith Hill area was developed. According to JHT, there formerly stood the house of John Curtice, probably built about 1714, last taxed in 1767, between Rowley Bridge Street and Hill Street.

ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET, opposite the southerly end of Alderbrook Drive. JHT writes, "Mrs. George W. Towne and Walter S. Peterson, Rowley Bridge Street. The present two story house was built about 1777-1780, for David Towne. It was thoroughly remodeled for John A. Peterson in 1880, by John H. Potter. A cider mill, that was located across the road and which was built about 1812, together with the "Liddy and Betty Towne" house, which had been moved to an adjoining site, were destroyed by fire on the night of September 26, 1880. See HC Vol. VII, p.86, line 33."

Walter Peterson died in 1924 and his daughter, Abbie Towne, sold the house to Richard Wheatland (see #101 Hill Street). He was still taxed for it in 1927, at \$1,500.00, but during the depression it burned or was removed.

With the development of the Meredith Hill subdivision and the layout of Alderbrook Drive, it is difficult to spot a house location that disappeared nearly two hundred years ago, but I quote Towne's information as a help to understanding some of the Dow's History names. Towne writes, "Site of Jabez Towne House. Between Rowley Bridge Street and Hill Street, formerly stood the house owned and occupied by Jabez

Towne. It was probably built in 1730, which was the year that he married, and the year after he bought the land. He sold the house and farm to Daniel Lake, April 25, 1763. The house was gone before 1798."

Again, on the opposite side of Rowley Bridge Street (i.e., west side), Towne writes, "The Foster-Horne Cellar, off Rowley Bridge Street. The two story house that formerly stood on this site was destroyed by a fire, which began about six o'clock, on the morning of June 6, 1882. The house was built by John Cummings about 1711. It was owned by Amos and Abraham Foster, and taxed to them in 1798."

The Gideon Towne cellar, northeasterly of Rowley Bridge Street and nearer to Hill Street, on land which Richard Wheatland of Hill Street acquired from the Walter Peterson estate, could be seen in 1902. Towne writes, "at the top of the hill may be seen a slight depression that marks the site of the Gideon Towne house, which was probably built in the latter part of the 17th century. The house had disappeared before 1798, as it was not taxed at that date."

About where #121 would be under present numbering of houses, stood the house of Baxter Pike, whose ancestors were in Topsfield as early as King Philip's war in 1670's (H.140). JHT writes, "This two story house, which was remodeled and a considerable addition made in 1889 for its present owner by John H. Potter, was built for Benjamin Pike in 1803. It stands about ten rods from the site of an older house, which was taken down sometime after the new house was finished. In the present house, now one hundred years old, a child has never been born. Near the ell of the house there once stood a barn, which was burned January 26, 1819. The road formerly passed in the rear of the present house. This farm was originally a part of the farm of the first Zaccheus Gould, who sold it to Zaccheus Curtice in 1663, and probably he built his house soon after. In 1748, the farm passed out of the family name and was successively owned by David Balch, Thomas Mower, and Jacob Kimball, who sold it February 5, 1781, to Benjamin Pike, since which time it has remained in the family. Baxter P. Pike, the present owner, has been a prominent citizen in town affairs for the past twenty-five years. See HC

Vol.VII, p.84, line 5.”

He died in 1919, and the house was acquired by Richard Wheatland (see #101-103 Hill Street). The Walter Benton family occupied the house from 1920 to 1925, after which they bought and occupied #127 Main Street. The Rowley Bridge Street buildings were all torn down between 1935 and 1944, except one shop which was moved to South Main Street.

#179 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

This one story house was built by William S. and Elizabeth Ballard at the site of the abandoned copper mine of the seventeenth century. That is an old story covered by various articles in HC Vols. II, XVI and XVIII, but let Mrs. Ballard, now living in Maine, tell their story:

“About the copper mine and its 20th century use: You remember correctly that there was a partially open hole on our corner lot that the old town records indicated had been once used to ‘take out copper’. My recollection is that the man who did the exploration got enough for the ‘head of a cane’ and the ill-fated load of ore sank before reaching England — or something equally disastrous and romantic.

“As to our use of the mine. We were forced by the construction of I-95 to move from Lantern Hill and so set up housekeeping on the town half of our land that fronted on Rowley Bridge and Hill Streets. Our problem, partially solved by living in a mobile home, was mainly lack of funds since we lost our house and, in those days, the state was not quick to reimburse one for his losses. With the weather being November, and the main lack that of water, we poked a 20’ or so pipe down the hole. It had always had water in it to approximately 6’ below the surface of the ground around it. We tried a couple of experimental pumpings to see how long it took to get down to nothing, and were satisfied that there was a sufficient reservoir to take care of our bath and toilet needs. We did not use the water for cooking or drinking. It probably was o.k. but was such a strong color of brownish orange that it made you feel as though you might get caked with rust inside.

"Of course we had the nuisance problem all that winter to keep the line from freezing, but other than that, we continued to use the system until we were able to move into the house that we were building — the following September.

"Once in the house we abandoned the mine water system. Instead, we used the house roof to catch water and conduct it down into a cistern in the basement. We used this method of getting water for several years. We had had Henry Gross and his dousing rod to locate water and had failed. Later thought on that matter probably indicated that the water was in the general location but much deeper than he indicated. The architect who designed the house and the butterfly roof was George Stoner of Manchester. He had done some nice contemporary work that we had seen and as long as we lived in the house we were enthusiastic about the layout and the materials he suggested."

Before the Ballards moved to Lantern Hill mentioned in the quoted letter above, they had owned the house at #59 Main Street, q.v.

In 1968 the house was sold to Perry C. Goodspeed, Jr., Sales Engineer, and in 1971, Joseph R. Kincaid moved from #5 Oak Drive and has owned to date.

#192 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

The present two story house was built in 1915, by J.D. Phillips for his chauffeur, Fred Greenwood, husband of Ida Towne. It is believed to be on the site of a small cottage owned by Mary S. Batchelder in 1892. Greenwood was followed by Alex Dyement, in 1944 (see #194 Rowley Bridge Street).

In 1983 the property still stands in the name of the Phillips Estate, Augustus P. Loring, Administrator, which maintains the house for rent.

#194 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

This one story and attic house was built for Herbert Towne at the time of his marriage in 1926. He was the son of Frank Towne, of Hill Street, and he worked for the Phillips' as a farmer. His wife became mentally ill and had to be

committed to the Danvers State Hospital. Alexander Dyement and his wife shared the house after Mrs. Towne's departure, then as their family increased, they moved to #192 and Marvin King, farmer, took the house at #194.

Since Mrs. Phillips' death in 1962, the houses have been in the care of Augustus P. Loring, Executor, of Salem.

"Site of the Old School-House. Nearly opposite the South Side cemetery and about where the bend in the wall occurs in Batchelder's orchard, there formerly stood a school-house. In September, 1738, two years before he removed to Windsor, Conn., Jacob Redington, cooper, because of the 'great desire I have to promote good learning among the children and youth in the neighborhood,' sold to Joseph Herrick, George Bixby and Aaron Esty, 13 poles of land, 'to build a school house to keep school in ***', the above said Herrick, Bixby and Esty, being a committee chosen by the proprietors and undertakers to said house, to take a deed of the land in their name.' This tract of land has been found to be situated on Hill Street, near Frank H. Towne's place. If a school-house was built at that place, it must afterwards have been moved to Rowley Bridge Street, or a new one built, as a school-house was standing there in 1790, and remained in existence until within the memory of the last generation, though its use for school purposes had long since been discontinued. See School-House, Boston Street." Ref. is JHT's. Ref. here: see Note following #116 Boston Street.

#217 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

"This two story house was built for Ezra Batchelder in 1852, by James H. Sleeper. The old two story house, which stood near the site of the present house but upon higher ground, and which was known as the Nathaniel Porter place, was built in the early part of the 18th century. William and Phebe Porter sold the house to Joseph Herrick of Beverly in 1728. The old house was taken down about 1876. See HC Vol. VII, p.86, line 7."

Ezra's widow, Mary S. (Andrews) Batchelder, died in 1906, and the large farm was divided between two sons,

Frank, who got what was later called the Alfalfa Farm, and William, who got the land on the westerly side of the road. William only lived until 1909, and the property was acquired by Thomas Sanders, who built a large house on the west side of the present Route I-95.

The house at #217 was probably occupied by Sanders' farm help until he sold all the property to William S. Ballard of Topsfield (see #179). Ballard, a realtor, subdivided the Sanders' farm when I-95 was laid out and sold A. C. Moynihan the southerly lots. Charles E. Magrane, of Salem, bought #217 in 1947, but only lived to the age of 28, and his wife sold in 1958 to Francis and Eleanor Cobleigh, who shared apartments with her father, Harold T. Partridge, Jeweler. After his wife's death in 1968, Eleanor Cobleigh and her family kept house for him until her death in 1975, and then removed from town in 1976. William Crannell bought the house in 1976 (Bk.6275, p.142).

John H. Towne, Vol.VIII, p.59, under the name Mary S. Batchelder gives the following information: "The east end of this two story house was built before 1762, when it was owned by Elijah Porter, tanner; and by him sold to Enos Knight. Porter removed to what is now the village and bought the farm now known as the "Church Home". The west part of the house was originally the Benjamin Towne house, built about 1713, off the Middleton Road, which was moved and attached in 1796-97. On July 31, 1896, a fire nearly destroyed the roof of the original part of the house. The new barn on this place was built in 1896, by John H. Potter. See HC Vol. V, p.21; Vol.VII, p.67, line 5."

The "Church Home" referred to above is now #31 South Main Street, q.v. Ezra Batchelder died in 1881 and his wife Mary S. (Andrews) was assessed (1892) for a house off of Rowley Bridge Street, while her son, William, for the house now numbered #217. Mary died in 1906, and the portion of the farm, easterly of the road, went to another son, Frank, who died in 1928, age 74.

The location of this dwelling, now long gone, has been the question that has puzzled the present interrogator. Towne uses the term "off" Rowley Bridge Street and the fact that Philander Anderson's map of 1830 shows a house about where

Alfalfa Farm mansion stands, would lead one to think that might be it. But Towne's footnotes tie it in with the Cummings property (about opposite the end of Alderbrook Drive). As that house burned in 1882, it is obvious that Mrs. Batchelder was living elsewhere, in 1902.

A study of the old deeds from Elijah Porter to Enos Knight and from him to John Derby indicates this property was near what is now #217, and that the house off Rowley Bridge Street was approximately where #252 is now. Knight owned on both sides of the road, but the parcel with a house on it (Bk.135, p.139) surrounded the South side cemetery.

#245 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

This two story, hip roofed house, owned by Benjamin Conant in 1902, was built, according to John H. Towne, "for Isaiah Peabody in 1845. It was afterwards owned by Allen Porter, and later by Henry Johnson and his son, George H. Johnson. The house was remodeled somewhat during the ownership of Henry Johnson."

Benjamin Conant (see #247) may have bought it for one of his sons, but he died in 1904 and his wife, Margaret, sold to Alice Daley, of Peabody to whom it was assessed in 1908. The next owner was Louis Giroux, of Lynn and he turned it over to Alphonse Joly, of Salem, who farmed it, but does not appear to have lived there. Henry B. Castonguay, a shoe worker, lived there from 1943 until his wife's death in 1957, and continued, as a widower for 26 years, dying in 1983. Part of the original grant to John Porter, the settler.

#247 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

This two and a half story house with large barn in the rear was taxed, according to JHT, to Daniel Porter in 1765, and remodeled for Benjamin Conant in 1884. Mr. Conant (1835-1904), son of John and Ruth (Stanley), born in Beverly, was twice married and had four children by each marriage. As their births are all recorded in the Topsfield Vital Records, it would appear that he lived here from 1861. His farm extended from the Turnpike in Topsfield, across Rowley Bridge Street, into Middleton with a small frontage on East Street, Middleton. Margaret Conant sold to Maxwell Norman



95 River Road.



247 Rowley Bridge Street.

(Bk.2025, p.537) in 1910, with a plan by Andrew Nichols.

For the next 60 years it was tied in with #252, q.v. In 1976, it was part of the Route 1 Development Corp. (Bk.6291, p.472) which sold #247 to James Eveleth in 1979, as a separate 2.6 acre lot. (Bk.6649, p.5)

#252 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

This mansion was built in 1932, approximately on the site of a dwelling owned by Moses Petingell in 1830. In 1852 (see #217) Ezra Batchelder owned land in Topsfield, and appears to have acquired this site as part of his extensive farm.

After his death in 1881, the farm was divided between his two sons. William Batchelder died in 1909, and Frank appears to have lost interest in farming, as he removed to Danvers. Towne's article, written in 1901, makes no mention of the name Petingell and no sale is recorded in that name. Moses E. Petingell was killed in a fall from a tree in 1858, and was survived by his wife, Lydia, for 40 years.

Benjamin Conant (see #217 and #245) extended his farm from the Turnpike in Topsfield to East Street in Middleton. His widow sold in 1910 to Maxwell Norman, who added a part of the Batchelder farm (Bk.2211, p.253) in 1913. In 1919 the executor of Norman's estate sold the property to Alice Barry of Boston. She never seems to have made Topsfield her residence, unless perhaps as a summer home, but she was assessed for the property in 1923 and 1928, which included two dwellings and a total of 147 acres. In 1929, Mabel Norman Cerio, wife of George, took title and conveyed the same year to a straw by name of Gates, who sold to William G. Sills of Newton.

In 1933, when the author first came to Topsfield, the Meredith Farm on Cross Street and Sills' Alfalfa Farm were competing for the milk business in town, with door to door deliveries.

The Sills family never appear in the street listing, but used the mansion as a summer home until 1947, when John H. Cains took title and moved in. In 1950, the construction of Route I-95 cut off a large segment of the farm toward the west. During the mid-fifties the house was occupied by Robert and Martha Cain.

In 1957, Joseph Mass moved from Florida with his family and lived in the mansion for twenty years. Although he kept the farm running, his chief interest was as a developer, and he used the land cut off by I-95 for a golf course in connection with the Ferncroft complex, in Danvers. #247 Rowley Bridge Street, part of the farm from the time Conant owned it, went to the Route 1 Development Corporation in 1976, when Mass had financial difficulties, and the farm buildings west of the road were bought by Richard Adelman, of Boxford. Since 1980 many new houses have been built on the subdivided area east of the road.

In 1980 the Timothy J. Guinee family, from Peabody, took possession of #252.

#267 ROWLEY BRIDGE STREET

This two story house does not appear to be mentioned in John H. Towne's article, in 1902, but Philander Anderson shows a house in the name of Ira Porter (1791-1881) approximately at this point. The Assessors' records indicate the present house dates to about 1870. Benjamin Conant owned it along with the rest of the large farm, known as the Alfalfa Farm, and it was occupied by farm help.

NOTE: Rowley Bridge is termed Street to make it distinct from Rowley Road, in case of emergency calls.

(DANVERS TOWN LINE. The road changes its name to North Street.)

SALEM ROAD

#45 SALEM ROAD (See Map 2)

This two story house, long known as "the farm house" on the Pingree estate, was built by Charles C. Brackett in 1836-7 for Asa Pingree, whose mother lived here until her death in 1853. From 1892 to 1928, the house was assessed to David Pingree.

David Pingree Wheatland, a collateral relative, received the Pingree property on Salem Road, and used the Farm



45 Salem Road.



49 Salem Road.

House as the residence for his caretaker, Melvin and Bessie Smerage, 1927-1935, and Henry W. Allen, who occupied it from 1936 to 1949. From 1949 to 1969, Robert L. Thompson served in that capacity, followed by Robert Bouchard of Middleton.

#49 SALEM ROAD (See Map 2)

This two story house with hip roof and 'widow's walk' overlooking the Ipswich River valley is Topsfield's prize architectural feature. I quote John H. Towne's information, albeit somewhat oblique: "In 1798, near where the present house stands, there was a small one story house having but five windows and owned by Moses Perkins (See HC Vol.VII, p.82, line 10). Here was born, April 2, 1758, Capt. Thomas Perkins, the eminent Salem merchant, who erected the present two story house in 1806. Samuel Hood was the carpenter. Capt. Perkins died November 24, 1830, aged 72 yrs. 7 mos. 22 days. The property was inherited by Asa Pingree.

"A chaise-house, which stood near the mansion-house, was destroyed by fire in 1849. The present carriage-house was built, in 1850, of stone brought from Crooked Pond in Boxford, and the two story "Stone House" was also built of material from the same place, in 1836. It was located on Salem Street on the easterly side, a few hundred feet beyond the Turnpike, and was taken down by David Pingree in 1885. Just beyond it stood a blacksmith's shop, which was destroyed by fire about 1855. The small house, at the westerly corner of Hill and Salem Streets, was standing September 2, 1771, when it was sold to John Balch, Jr. by his father. It was originally a currying shop and was used as such for a long time, afterwards being changed into a dwelling-house, in 1830, occupied by George Creelman."

Asa Pingree lived in the mid-nineteenth century: a son, David, was a benefactor of the Topsfield Library. Ann Marie Pingree married Stephen Wheatland, grandfather of David Pingree Wheatland, present owner of the estate (see #101 Hill Street).

#79 SALEM ROAD

This one and a half story house facing south was built

in 1852 for Ebenezer Peabody by Jacob Foster. "A barn and carriage house, standing in the rear of the house," according to JHT, "were struck by lightening and destroyed by fire early in the morning of August 20, 1890." Apparently they were rebuilt promptly, as the 1892 Assessors' list shows a barn and shed taxed that year. In 1902, the property appears to have been in the name of the heirs of Ebenezer, and Alden S. Peabody occupied the house until his death in 1916.

The house appears to have had a large number of Peabody heirs involved, but it was finally transferred by Lydia, the widow of Alden, to Thomas W. Peirce (see #116 Boston Street) by way of Addison Pike, in 1920. Mr. Peirce's widow transferred title to their son, Stanley, in 1935.

In 1940, Peirce transferred to Vernon Childs, who turned it over to Fred and Gladys Spaugh, of Marblehead (Bk.3211, p.315) before recording his (Childs') receipt of title! In 1945, the Spaughs sold to Grace Turnquist, who does not appear to have occupied the house, but rented to Norman T. Worgan, to whom she eventually sold it. In 1953, Rex LeParmentier, Manager of the extensive Richardson farms in Middleton and Topsfield, bought out the Topsfield area and acquired this Salem Road house, which he occupied for a year until selling to Dr. Charles N. and Sally Curtis. After 35 years of frequent changes, the property now has been in one family for 32 years, as of the present writing.

#82 SALEM ROAD

This mansion, set far back from the road, was designed by Stickney and Austin, Architects, of Boston, in 1903 and constructed in 1905 for Arthur H. Wellman of Malden. The first floor walls are constructed of field stone, the upper walls are shingled, and the roof is gambrel shaped with a short round tower. The upper windows are gable dormers; an ell for the service quarters extends at an angle toward the rear. Cost, including planting: \$9,900.00.

Mr. Wellman was prominent in Malden civic affairs before moving to Topsfield, where he died in 1948 at the age of 92. His son, Sargent (see #28 Wenham Road), was active in Town affairs for many years here in Topsfield. His daughter, Katherine, continued to occupy the house until her passing



82 Salem Road.



86 Salem Road.

in 1955, after which it was vacant for several years, until John and Pauline Proctor, of Marblehead took possession. In 1961, Jordan Patkin, auto dealer, and his wife, Rhoda, moved from Belmont and bought this unusual structure.

#86 SALEM ROAD

JHT writes as follows: "The two story house at the corner of Wenham and Salem Streets, is very old. In 1744 it was taxed to Matthew Peabody, and in 1768, one half of it was taxed to John Peabody, who also owned it in 1798. It passed out of the family and was owned for many years by James Waters. It is probably over two hundred years old, and tradition has it that it was built while Parson Hobart lived in the town (October, 1672 – November, 1682), because he was present at the raising and enjoyed the festivities of the occasion. The Rev. Josiah Peabody, who graduated at Dartmouth College in 1836, and was for several years a missionary to the Armenians at Erzroom, Turkey, was born in this house January 7, 1807. The barn on this place was built for James Waters in 1875, by John H. Potter. See HC Vol. VII, p.79, line 28."

James Waters, referred to above, died suddenly in 1885, and there is no further record in Topsfield concerning his wife.

In 1945 Malcolm and Lucille Burroughs from New York bought the property (Bk.3428, p.384), but did not become full time residents until 1965.

#99 SALEM ROAD

A two story house formerly rested on this site. JHT writes: "This house was taxed to Daniel Esty as early as 1768. Mrs. Deborah (Easty) Kimball, who lived to be 100 years and 2 months old, was born in this house in 1779 and afterwards owned it. A blacksmith's shop formerly stood near the house. See HC Vol. VII, p.60, line 26."

At the time Towne wrote the above, the property stood in the name of William H. Homan, but by 1921, Homan was living on Washington Street. For a short period before World War II, Frances and Richard Hurd lived in it, and after the war, Charles and America Gregor bought it and moved from

Pemberton Road. Charles died in 1970, and America, a registered nurse, removed to Danvers, selling to Santi and Irene Speranzi.

The Speranzi's had lived there a very short time when the house burned down and they rebuilt the present one story house with brick walled basement and clapboarded superstructure.

Quoting John H. Towne, "Site of Michael Dwinell House, off Salem Street. About 600 feet off Salem Street, and on the eastern side, in Willard A. Dwinell's old orchard pasture, may be seen the site of the Michael Dwinell two story house, which was built near the old Salem Road that went through his land. Mr. Dwinell came from France, and is supposed to have come to this town about 1664. He was the ancestor of the Dwinell family here. Near this site, in the summer time, may be seen beautiful red roses of different shades. These bushes are supposed to have been here ever since he lived at this place. The house was not taxed after 1760."

Cellar of Thomas Dwinell House, off Salem Street. "In the same pasture and about 150 feet in a southeasterly direction from the site of the Michael Dwinell house, may be plainly seen the cellar of the Thomas Dwinell house. This cellar is still quite deep. The house was taxed as late as 1765."

#110 SALEM ROAD

The main portion of this two and a half story house, set high above the road, was built for Dr. Roger and Mrs. Ruth (Hosley) Edwards in 1933, by a contractor named Lovett of North Beverly. A two car garage was built in an excavation close to the road.

During World War II Dr. Edwards was stationed in Virginia and Georgia where his wife joined him; then later he was transferred to a Naval Base in the Aleutians for two years, and Mrs. Edwards lived with her folks in Waban. During their absence, the house was rented to a Coast Guardsman from Beverly. Dr. Edwards was Commander while in the Aleutians and retired with the rank of Captain. After Mrs.

Hosley's death an addition was built in 1946 at the east end of the main house, extending southerly, as an apartment for Mrs. Edwards' father.

In 1976 the house was sold to Dr. Roger W. and Donna Sachs, and the Edwards moved to #12 Arrowhead Road in retirement.

#120 SALEM ROAD

This two and a half story house, with a small ell at the rear, was built in 1881, for Willard A. Dwinell, by John H. Potter (see note between #103 and #110). Willard's son, John Willard (1871-1941), married Susan Kelley and inherited the house and a share in the extensive farm. They had a son, John W. Jr. (see #132 Salem Road), and a daughter, Ruth, who married Ken Ingalls. Ruth runs a hair dressing shop in their home; Ken has retired from work for the Highway Department.

#123 SALEM ROAD

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Jacob Dwinell in 1761, by Othniel, Thomas and Archelaus Rea. The timber from which the frame was hewn grew on the hillside a short distance to the westward of the house. In 1828 an addition was built and the old fashioned long sloping roof in the rear of the house was removed. This was done by his grandson, John Dwinell, and the house has since remained in its present form. Mrs. Esther Dwinell, the mother of John, died here, October 31, 1847, aged 101 years, 8 mos, 10 days. The barn was built for John Dwinell in 1852, by Jacob Foster. This property has been in the Dwinell name ever since the original purchase over two hundred and thirty years ago. See HC Vol. VII, p.69, line 24."

At the time Towne was writing, two spinster sisters of Willard Dwinell (see #120 Salem Road), Sarah and Esther, were living in this house, and as they pre-deceased him, the property went to him and then to John, his son. The latter had a daughter, Ruth (see #120) and a son, John, Jr. (see #132 Salem Road) who sold the old homestead to John H. Gardinar in 1952. In 1973, the property was sold to Dr. Norman C. Pare and his wife, from Wenham, current residents.



123 Salem Road in 1900.



123 Salem Road in 1989.

JHT writes, "Site of Dr. Michael Dwinell House, Salem St. On a little knoll on the western side of Salem street, and a few feet north of the driveway to the present house of the Dwinell sisters, may be seen the site of Dr. Michael Dwinell's house. He was the first doctor on record in Topsfield, styled in old papers as "Physician". He had the honor of having seven wives, the last one surviving him. He died here December 24, 1761, aged 91 years. His house was taxed as a dwelling until 1778, and was afterwards used as a barn. The old well is still in evidence."

#132 SALEM ROAD

During World War II, John W. Dwinell, always called 'Bud', served in the U.S. Marines and was wounded in the battle to capture Iwo Jima. In 1948 with Myron Peabody, he built this one and a half story house with attached garage, on what was left of the original Dwinell farm, and married Evelyn Nelson. He served as mail carrier in town for thirty years. Evelyn works in Dr. Lois K. Roger's office.

#145 SALEM ROAD

This one and a half story house, with separate gable dormer windows and separate garage, was built for John S. Bethune, Industrial Engineer, in 1949 (Bk.3550, p.71). He and his wife still occupy it as of this writing.

SCHOOL AVENUE

#6 SCHOOL AVENUE

JHT writes: "This one story house was built for Jacob W. Reed in 1861. It was originally a store and dwelling house and was first located at the corner of School Avenue and Main Street, on what is now J. B. Poor's lawn. It was bought by Benjamin P. Adams, June 10, 1870, of the administrator of Jacob W. Reed's estate, and removed to its present location where it was remodeled into a dwelling-house."

At the time (1902) that Towne wrote the above, it was owned by Alphonse T. Merrill, Town Clerk, Auditor and School Committee. From 1901 to 1914 he was Selectman.

Mr. Merrill was in service during the Civil War. It was he who designed the Civil War Memorial referred to under #11 High Street, which was a gift by Dr. Justin Allen. The monument was erected in July, 1914, just five months before Merrill's death at the age of 69. See H. 453.

In 1951 #6 School Avenue was conveyed to Leland Means et ux, who lived there until 1964, after which it was rented or vacant for several years until Douglas and Jean (Gage) MacCormack moved in during 1969, and bought it (Bk.5791, p.577). In 1978, Graham Nelson, of Boxford, took title and has rented it to Jean MacCormack's brother, Laurence Gage, Jr., self employed.

#7 SCHOOL AVENUE

This building was originally a wood-working shop of Charles Poor (1875-1961) (see #49 Main Street). Harold Jordan bought the shop in 1959 (Bk.4509, p.476) and turned it over to the Topsfield-Boxford Community Club in 1967, where it is used as the Thrift and Consignment shop. Ev Fales remembers there used to be a fire house for hand drawn equipment outside the shop which was handy to the concrete basin in the nearby brook.

#10 SCHOOL AVENUE

This brick building, two stories in height at the southerly end, with garage stalls at the left, was originally called the Town Equipment Building. In March, 1941, a five man committee was authorized "to construct and originally equip a new building for the use of the Highway and Fire Departments". (Annual Town Report, 1941.)

The Finance Committee had been unable to present a unanimous opinion on the amount of money to spend, so C. Lawrence Bond moved "that there be raised and appropriated \$18,000 for the purpose of constructing — a building for the use of the Highway and Fire Departments — including the Architects' fee and expenses of the Committee."

On page 93 of the same Annual Report the Town Accountant gave the following breakdown of the expenses:

Contract	\$16,508
Committee expenses	12
Professional Services	592
Heating Engineer's fee	45
Architect's fee	430
Other items	358
Total:	\$17,945

The building was virtually complete within nine months of the vote to proceed.

Today, the Fire Department has removed to a new building on High Street, and the Highway Department has taken over the vacated Fire Engine stalls and upstairs meeting room.

On the hill between this building and the new Fire Station, was the site of the central school, about which JHT wrote, "This building was originally the Topsfield Academy and was built for proprietors, in 1827-8. In 1860 the title passed to Jacob W. Reed of Groveland, who built an addition on the southern end, which was used as a dwelling-house and afterwards became part of the John Lynch house on Grove Street. In 1868 the town purchased the property and it has been used as a school-house ever since. An addition was made to it in 1889, by John H. Potter, and another in 1899, by Henry H. Roberts." See HC Vol. IV and Vol. VI, p.55.

When the Proctor School was built in 1934, the old Academy was torn down, to the sorrow of some of the older citizens.

SILVERBROOK ROAD

This road was laid out in 1955, and all houses facing it were built subsequent to that date. (See HC Vol. XXXIII) It was the Silva Farm. See #31 Lockwood Lane, third paragraph.

SLEEPY HOLLOW

This road was laid out in 1961. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

#5 SLEEPY HOLLOW

Was originally #69 Wenham Road, renumbered in 1982. JHT writes, "This property, in 1798, was a farm of thirty acres, and was owned by Nathaniel Fiske. The one story house was taxed to him as early as 1768. It was remodeled for George W. Dwinell, the owner, in 1882. He died December 21, 1890, and the property afterwards passed to the present owner (Loring A. Rust)."

Loring died in 1908. His son, Forrest Warren, married in 1904, but lost his first wife in 1916. He married a second time, in 1921, Jessie M. (Killam) Burnham.

Warren D., a son by the first marriage, and William W., a son by the second, ran the farm until 1957. Warren married Virginia Burpee. The son, William, moved to Maine in 1957 and ran a farm there.

In 1957, Charles and Judith Barr, of Boxford, bought the house and lived here until 1961. In 1962 J. Douglas and Jean Vedoe acquired it and continued to live here up to 1981, when they moved to Maine.

SOUTH COMMON STREET

The Colonial Brick Library Building was completed in 1935, based on plans drawn by Harold Field Kellogg, Boston architect, who also did the interior murals. See H. 441-3.

SOUTH MAIN STREET

Before the numbering of houses in town, South Main Street was called Main Street, and Towne's article lists the houses starting from the Turnpike end. Under the system adopted, house numbers start at the end of the street closest to the Village center, and South Main was made separate from Main Street in 1951.



5 Sleepy Hollow.



9 South Main Street.

#2 SOUTH MAIN STREET

Until after World War II, the first house on the northeast side of South Main Street was #18, with land which extended northerly to the former railroad crossing. The area now devoted to parking for #6 was cut off from the house lot by Andrew Elwell, who erected a small sports and gun shop on it. Whether business was slow or whatever, he decided to move it to the Turnpike in South Lynnfield; then with land values skyrocketing and Turnpike traffic lanes separated into North and South, he moved it back to Topsfield. Here he enlarged it into an ell shaped building with Bicycle shop, print shop and small restaurant (now all torn down), but by 1961 the Security National Bank took over (Bk.4735, p.194) and sold to the Topsfield Village Shopping Centre in 1965.

#3 and 5 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

To quote JHT, "This two story house was built for Elisha A. Hood in 1854-5, by Daniel Willey and Isaiah Small." Towne makes no further comment, but Hood died in 1873 and in 1892 the house was assessed to Dr. Justin Allen (1826-1908).

Dr. Allen, President of the Topsfield Historical Society from the time of its founding in 1894 until his death, left a bequest for the Civil War Memorial which stands on the triangle in front of the Topsfield Library (See HC Vol.XIV, p.148).

Dr. Allen left the property in which he made his home to Abigail Welch, "for long continued, kindly attendance in protracted illness". In 1937, Justin Welch, widower, conveyed the house to Allen P. Gould, of Hopkinton, and he to Albion Scribner in 1945. Albion conveyed to Albion Scribner, Jr., who lost it, by foreclosure, to the Danvers Savings Bank.

From 1952 to 1954 the house stood in the name of Pierre LeBlanc, contractor. He sold to Lester and Madelaine Coffin (Bk.4200, p.187) in 1955, who moved from around the corner on Grove Street. On the death of Lester in 1974, the title was transferred to their son, Robert J., and his wife, Karen (Bk.7033, p.124).

It was probably Dr. Allen who made the house into apartments. Among tenants in the 1920-35 period were Fred

Percy and Daisy Smerage, Roy Smerage, and Dr. and Mrs. Roger Edwards.

#9-11 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT gives brief information on this two story house, "the old Baker-Hood-Gould estate." Baker was John, a lieutenant in the French Indian Wars and a Captain at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He was married in 1761, and the ell of the house (1902) was part of a two story house taxed in 1798. He died in 1815. In 1830 the map of Topsfield, by Philander Anderson, shows the house in the name of Samuel Hood (1784-1865) who was married in 1814. Gould was probably William Porter Gould, but Towne gives more about a market which stood between this house and Dr. Allen's than about this one. He writes 'it' was "remodeled in 1886 for W. Porter Gould", but does he refer to the house, or the market which was sold to Charles H. Leach?

In 1902 the house stood in the name of George P. Dow, father of George Francis, the historian, and Eugene, a building contractor, who acquired the title about 1917 and lived in the house until 1950. He rented it until 1954, when he sold to Peter R. Kimball of Byfield (Bk.4070, p.381). Conrad Cayting bought the house in 1965, moving from Melrose, but sold in 1967 to Dr. Harry Carpenter (Bk.5467, p.537) who rents apartments there and maintains his office at #11.

#13 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

In 1713, Thomas Goodale (Goodhall) married Phebe Perkins and built a house (probably 1714) on the corner of Prospect Street. They had a son born in 1716, but at the time of the division of the remaining common lands, in 1722, Phebe, as a widow, received Thomas' share of some land "above the meeting house". She married a second time, in 1729, and died in 1737. The house was gone by 1761.

Nearly one hundred years later the present two story house was moved from the southerly side of the Munday Tavern* (1858-9) (see #5 Main Street) where it had been used as a public hall. William Munday died in 1871. In 1872, Elmer Littlefield married Edna Gould, granddaughter of William Munday, so presumably they occupied the house which

was assessed to him (Elmer) in 1892 and still owned it in 1902, when John H. Towne wrote it up.

Emily A. Hutchings was assessed for the house and 2 acre lot, besides other land, in 1908, but had lost it to Annie A. Clerk before 1916, when it was taken by the County (Arthur U. Hutchings tried to break the mortgage foreclosure in 1916). Annie sold to Charles F. Shirely in 1923 (Bk.2556, p.468) who retired here from Duxbury and died in 1945. His daughter, Ruth, ran a "community shop" on the porch until 1960, but the title stood in the name of J.N. Shirley of Duxbury (Bk.3810, p.448).

In 1960 Richard Hammer of Lynnfield, who developed various parcels in town, bought the property and sub-divided the rear portion with frontage on Prospect Street, selling the house to S. L. Ahman, jeweler, from Melrose. Mr. Ahman died in 1974 and the property was acquired by Dr. Thomas Grady, dentist.

**The site mentioned as south of the Munday Tavern would have been where Park Street was laid out several years later. This is only the author's rationalizing, some 130 years later, of the reason for the move only three years after the original railroad station was built, about where #2 Main Street is now. With some eight trains a day to Boston (or Danvers) the engine would have stopped just a few feet from the house, so the smoke might have been really annoying!*

#15 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Nehemiah Balch and Samuel C. Todd, by Charles C. Brackett, in 1838, and was first used as a boot shop. In 1840 it was remodeled into a dwelling-house, and occupied for many years by Nehemiah Balch, who died here, January 2, 1884."

His wife, Mary Ann (Lovett) lived until 1889, and the house sold to Dr. Thomas L. Jenkins, Harvard Medical School. He bought the practice of Dr. George M. Randall, who had been in Topsfield for a year only. Dr. Jenkins married in 1902, and shortly thereafter acquired the property at #18 Prospect Street to which he moved, selling the South Main Street house to Annie A. Clerk in 1905 (Bk.1782, p.245). The Clerks operated a sizable squab plant. Annie was assessed for the house and lot in 1908 as well as the house at #13, but by 1923, only on the property at #13. Annie sold to

Walter Banister in 1921 who turned the property over to Maria B. Smith, ux Charles. They lost by foreclosure of a mortgage to the Danvers Cooperative Bank, not recorded until 1929.

In 1923, Elbridge H. Gilford, Jr.(he was the uncle of Elbridge H. Gilford, 3rd, who runs the grocery at #36 Main Street) and his wife, Nellie B. (Walsh), moved from #9 River Road when that house sold to John L. Saltonstall. Nellie sold to Bette Jenkins, wife of Earle (Bk.3249, p.579-80) in 1941, but the Jenkins do not appear to have occupied until after the war.

In 1953 Anne (Means) Peirce, R.N., bought the place. She occupied while her children were growing up, and in 1978, swapped it for #47 High Street, q.v. James B. Peirce, Jr. is the grandson of Thomas W. Peirce, Jr. of #116 Boston Street q.v.

#18 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Charles Herrick in 1855, by Daniel Willey and I.M. Small." Herrick was a shoe manufacturer (see #27 Main Street) and Chairman of the School Committee. In 1924, Andrew L. Peirce, Administrator of the Elizabeth Herrick estate, widow of William, conveyed the property to Ada Elwell of Peabody, wife of William, an electrical contractor, and mother of Andrew, mentioned at #2. The Elwells continued to occupy the house at #18 until 1968, when the Topsfield Village Shopping Centre bought it, and converted it to an office building. A large barn at the end of the driveway was torn down and stores made of it.

#19 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "This one story house was originally the wash-house at the Turnpike Hotel. In 1842 it was bought by Dea. Samuel C. Todd and removed to its present location, being remodeled and enlarged."

Even so, it must have been smaller than #5 Haverhill Road, where his family of four boys and seven girls grew up (11 children in 20 years). Mehitable, one of the younger



18 South Main Street.



28 South Main Street.

daughters, lived here until 1913. In 1915, Sarah Gay received #19 and sold to Benjamin P. Edwards, who turned it over the following year to Grace (Dow) Conley (1871–1951), who with her husband, Samuel (1862–1939), moved from River Road and lived here until 1945, after which the property was purchased by J. Thomas and Olive Foster, of Melrose. He died in 1954 and his wife in 1969. They had three sons, one of whom, Richard, still occupies the house at this writing.

#22 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built by Jacob Foster, in 1855, for his own occupancy. Prof. J. Warren Healey, principal of the Topsfield Academy, lived here in 1856, and Prof. O.D. Allis, another principal, lived here in 1857–8."

Jacob Foster (1824–1906) married Angelina Towne in 1845, but if they had any children, they were not born in Topsfield. Jacob appears to have been active over a number of years as he built in 1850 the building, since burned, at #27 Main Street, and #111 Boston Street, q.v. about 1870.

As Thomas Peirce bought out Israel Rea about that time, it is probably the date when Rea took over the South Main Street house. Foster died in Somerville as did his wife, in 1894. The 1884 Atlas of Essex Co. shows this property in the name of I.Rea Estate. Rea died, a widower in 1883, and Eliza A.A. Rea received title (Bk.1137, p.113). She sold to J.H. Towne in 1905, and Laura, Towne's widow, received the one third interest from her son Benjamin B. Towne, in 1928.

Laura Towne was not living in Topsfield when she turned the property over, in 1930, to B. Floyd Soule, who occupied it with his family, but turned it over to the Ipswich Cooperative Bank in 1936 (Bk.3063, p.447).

In 1941, the block at #27 Main Street burned and the Topsfield Grange acquired #22 South Main Street. A meeting hall was arranged on the first floor, where Saturday evening suppers were served monthly, open to the public, and the upper floors rented for an apartment. Max and Marion Welch occupied for nine years after World War II, Don and Nancy Begin while their house on Rowley Bridge Street was being

built, Gordon and Luella Newton were the tenants from 1962 to 1978, since when it has had a number of occupants. The Newtons moved to Bare Hill Road.

#26 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This house was built for Frederick P. Merriam in 1859, by Jacob T. Strangman. Towne gives nothing more. Mr. Merriam (1821?-1896) was the railroad station agent, and this house was about as close to his job as it could be. He was still assessed for the house in 1892, and his son, Henry, in 1902. In 1903, Henry sold to Pauline Chapman, wife of Roscoe.

In 1914, Walter Clifford sold the house to Charles V. Jackman (Bk.2265, p.361) (See #31 South Main Street). He probably rented to Mildred Morissey, to whom he sold it in 1921 (Bk.2480, p.304). J. Frederick Morissey married Mildred Towne in 1913. A carpenter by trade, he served the Town in numerous capacities: as forest warden, as petroleum inspector, as Lieutenant of the Fire Department and as Chief for nearly thirty years. He died at the age of 70, in 1960, and his wife in 1963. Her brother, Herbert Towne, came into possession of the property in 1965, moving from #68 Hill Street, q.v. Frank and Madelene Nix shared the house at #26 with Mr. Towne until Frank's death in 1974. Mr. Towne died in 1977 and the property was bought by Judith Murphy the following year.

#28 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Samuel Clifford, in 1844, by Nathan Brown. He bought the land of William Munday." Clifford, a shoemaker, and his wife, Rachael Averell, had a son, Edwin Spofford, also a shoemaker, who married Amanda Pike. He inherited the property at his father's death in 1872, and was assessed for it in 1908. Amanda died in 1911 and Edwin in 1913. Charles V. Jackman bought the house in 1914 and sold to George Wilmot in 1923 (Bk.2556, p.582). G. F. Dow, who lived at #30, bought it in 1929 and his widow, Alice, sold in 1948 to Eugene Dow, her brother-in-law. Godfrey and Catherine (Long) Torrey had been occupying as tenants, bought in 1950 (Bk.3751,

p.536). Godfrey Torrey, 1911–1980, was in charge of publications at the State House, and Catherine working as a real estate broker with Ed Thompson, still occupies with her younger daughter at this writing.

#31 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

“The Stanwood Church Home. This is the Robinson–Porter–Cleaveland estate. The old house was remodeled and greatly enlarged by Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland, who acquired the property about 1795. His grandson, Nehemiah, states in the Bicentennial Address (p.xxiv.) that the southern portion of the house was one of the oldest erections in the town. In 1873, Joseph E. Stanwood moved one half of the house to the corner of Central and Summer sts., where it is now owned by I.M. Woodbury, and demolished the remaining portion and erected on the same spot the present two story dwelling–house which, in 1888, he gave to the Church Home for Orphan and Destitute Children, of South Boston. See HC Vol. VII, p.66, line 4.”

The above, written by John H. Towne, deserves some explanation. The Robinson mentioned was Jacob, who served on various committees in the church and military affairs, was an inn holder in 1741, but denied a license during the battle over Dan Clark’s attempt to regain one.

In 1761 he sold the house and considerable land to Elijah Porter and appears to have left town, as his death is not recorded here. Before buying the South Main Street property, Porter had owned land off Rowley Bridge Street, near its southerly end and operated a tan–yard. In 1751, he was a Selectman, and in 1774, a year before his death, was granted a retail license.

Nehemiah Cleaveland, son of Rev. John of Ipswich, born in 1760, is said to have purchased a number of parcels of property taken by Elijah Porter’s creditors’. Following the American Revolution, Nehemiah finally settled in Topsfield where he became a practicing physician (see *Topsfield History*, pp.423–4). By his second wife, Experience Lord of Pomfret, Conn., he had nine children.

In 1850, at the time of the bicentennial of Topsfield’s founding, a son, Nehemiah, gave the principal address (see

31 South Main Street.



*The Cleveland House prior to 1873.
The rebuilt house as it appeared in 1900.
The house in 1989.*

copy in the Topsfield Library). He never seems to have used the term, Junior, after his name, perhaps because his father was always called Doctor. He spent considerable funds fixing over the old house at this time, but living in New York, he used it as a summer home and eventually sold to Joseph Stanwood, a friend.

In 1873, Stanwood had the house entirely removed, as mentioned by Towne, and the present Victorian style house built upon the old foundation, with eighteen inches of brick added to the original stone construction. This raised the house above the street level, suitable to its style and allowing cellar windows at the front to give better ventilation. Another eighteen inches was added to the height of the first floor rooms, which accounted for the steps down to the room between the house and the barn, now changed.

The large granite slabs forming the wall along the street front were cut in Rockport and hauled by twenty oxen, taking three days on the trip. Granite hitching posts were connected by chains to keep horses off the sidewalk. Several have been removed due to an accident in which a woman driving too close brought her horse in contact with one of the chains, which so startled him that he reared up and threw the driver from her seat. She sued Stanwood for having an obstruction in the street and won her case.

Stanwood was so incensed by the judgement that he declared he would see that the Town never got anymore taxes from the property. He gave it to the Church Home for Destitute Children, of South Boston, a charitable institution, and for eighteen years it was known as the Stanwood Church Home, until the Principal took the job as head of a new State school in Lawrence.

During those years the boys farmed the hillside, and when old enough drove a wagon to Danvers to peddle groceries. The boys slept in what the author used to call the barn chamber, and had to use a privy in the barn loft connected to the manure pit beneath. The only heat appears to have been a grill above a wood stove in the shop beneath.

Some of the boys are said to have carved the wooden pineapple with incised vine leaves that decorated the roof of the five sided room over the porch on the south side of the

house. With the closing of the school home, Charles V. Jackman bought the property intending, it is said, to sell it to Thomas E. Proctor, who was buying practically everything in Topsfield that came on the market, but failing to turn it over, Jackman moved his family from the Donation Farm on Cross Street (#41).

The sandstone fountain with a circular pool surrounding it is dated 1850, when Cleaveland made the first alterations, and the sundial is somewhat older than that. This is interesting since it indicates the well on the hill, some four hundred feet away, must date that far back. The well, six feet deep and eighteen feet across, is connected to the house by a lead pipe which filled a tank in the attic. When the tank became full the overflow fed the fountain and gave warning to the family that it was time to shut off the flow from the well.

Charles V. Jackman died in 1924, and his widow, Mary, and their handicapped son, Charlie, moved across the street to the home of their daughter, Mary Long (#40 South Main Street).

To keep the insurance down on #31, Mrs. Jackman permitted the house to be occupied by Hollis and Viola Slipp. They were virtual campers, since the pipe from the well had corroded, so they had to use water from the brook, and get their drinking water from the Town Pump. The only heat was from a wood stove on which they cooked, and I believe they used oil lamps for light. So when the author bought the house in 1933, it was in pretty sad shape.

I'll not bore you with the details of how two city bred people from Back Bay, Boston, found and decided to renovate this ark, but remembering the ice storm of 1921, which put Boston suburbs out of electricity for three weeks, we were determined to make the place, as nearly as possible, livable whatever might happen.

We replaced the corroded pipe to the well, so we could get water without pumping, but we added a driven well for drinking water; the town had piped in gas, so we were sure of cooking; with a triple service boiler we could heat by oil, wood or coal, and burn our trash without going to the dump, and finally with oil lamps and candles we could see without electricity.

Once established we made few alterations during our thirty-five years of occupancy. The 1797 (approximate) barn served as a garage and when the floor timbers eventually showed signs of weakening, we placed steel posts for additional support. In 1957, I gave up my Boston office and fitted up one in what had been the milk room in the barn.

To get the farm back into shape, we had the hillside ploughed and planted to potatoes, then put most of it back into hayfield, bartering the hay for our milk supply. Near the brook we had a fair sized vegetable garden and we raised two goats, 22 lambs, and innumerable hens and ducks, not all at one time, however.

Two incidents which might have terminated the history of this house, but for the sequence of events, leads me to the conviction that Providence played a part in them.

In the summer of 1937, we had a male cook who did not come back from his day off. Mrs. Dailey, my wife, Barbara's, mother, had planned to go home that day, but decided to spend another night. She slept in the barn chamber and during the night came to my room to say she could smell smoke.

I phoned the fire chief, who lived across the road and dashed for the fuse box to pull out the barn circuits. As he passed through the hall below the barn chamber he put his hand on the BX cable that was fastened to a large timber overhead. It was hot! Grabbing a rag, he pulled the cable with all his might and it came loose followed by smoking hay seed.

If Mrs. Dailey had not spent the night in the barn chamber; if she had not had a keen sense of smell; if Morrissey had not put his hand up on the cable and pulled, the heat would undoubtedly have set this hay seed on fire and the loft full of hay! During a thunderstorm the previous day a bolt struck close by and the electric company said that a portion of it grounded through the BX cable, enough to scorch the insulation but not blow a fuse, and a short began to heat the cable.

The second incident occurred during the laying of a water main in 1946. A backhoe digging a trench hitched on to the gas pipe leading in to the cellar of #31, and disconnected it from the meter in the basement (that was before meters were

placed outside). My wife heard the rush of gas and dashed out to tell the shovel operator. "Oh no! I'm only down six inches." Barbara didn't stop to argue, dashed back to the house to get Jonathan out of the house and shut off the oil burner.

It seems the gas line from the main to the house was not laid in a trench, but driven beneath the pavement, then uncapped and connected to the pipe in the house. What might have happened if the oil burner had come on and sucked in the free flowing gas?

By 1968, four of my five children had been married and the property was becoming a burden. We were approached by a resident who wanted the house and land, but with the restrictions we put on the development of the land, he was unable to get a mortgage. Placed on the market, Dr. and Mrs. Booth bought the place and gave us five months to arrange our affairs before moving to Linebrook Road.

At this time the only portion of the original (1850) house was the service hallway between the house and the barn, and the bedroom above it. The Booths had this area torn down and the first and second floors extended to the barn wall which was sealed off, and steps arranged on the outside to get up to the first floor level. Don and Barbara Booth are still the owners.

#32 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

This two and a half story hip roof house was built for George Francis Dow in 1893 by Messrs. Foster and Duncan of Danvers. Born in 1867, he was not married until 1920, and spent much of his time in genealogical and historical research and was a prime mover in the formation of the Topsfield Historical Society. He died in 1936 and his widow, Alice (Waters) of Salem (1870-1953) put his History of Topsfield together and had it printed by the Topsfield Historical Society with assistance by the Town.

A sister, Adeline M. Dow, occupied the house for a year after Mrs. Dow's passing, and Horace Lander, research metallurgist, of Cambridge, bought the property. In 1957, when the Bailey Block burned, John Oldreive sold his house, in what is now the Village Shopping Centre, and purchased the

Dow house, making a separate apartment for his mother.

In 1965, the Oldreives sold to John and Ruth (Tronerud) Bell and moved to Colerain Road. John was employed at the Danvers State Hospital and Ruth served many years as dietitian at the Proctor School. In 1975, the Bells sold to Nancy Carroll of Marshfield and removed to Essex for a brief time before returning to Ipswich Road, Topsfield. Dr. Carroll is a dentist.

#36 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT states, "This two story building was built for Mrs. Mary Taylor, daughter of Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland and widow of Rev. Oliver A. Taylor, author and minister at Manchester, Mass., by Daniel Willey and Isaiah M. Small, in 1855. In 1872 the house became the property of Joseph E. Stanwood who presented it to Fountain Lodge No.170, I.O.O.F. in 1886, and shortly after it was extensively remodeled by John H. Potter. The Lodge room was first occupied February 10, 1887. Fountain Lodge was organized December 31, 1874, in the small hall on the second floor of the building on Central street, now occupied by J.J. Hardy, harness maker. November 11, 1875, the organization removed to the new hall in Bailey's Block, now occupied by Topsfield Lodge, A.O.U.W. and Topsfield Grange. P. of H. The lodge occupied that hall until its removal to this building."

The International Order of Odd Fellows still owned the building in 1954, when it was finally sold to Andrew M. Farrar, who had been renting it since 1936. With his wife, Anne (Tracy) and his three children, he lived here until his retirement from Andy Jackman's fuel business and sold in 1976 to Robert M. Maguire, of Salem (Bk.6240, p.610). Marilyn Farrar married Lawrence Linfield in 1951. They live on Gail Street, one of the few post-war couples which grew up in Topsfield and stayed here.

Maguire only held the house for a year and sold to Ronald F. Trippett, of Lynn.

#40 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland, in 1835-6, by Charles C. Brackett, and



32 and 36 South Main Street in 1900.



32 and 36 South Main Street in 1989.

was first occupied by Rev. James F. McEwen, who was pastor of the Congregational church, 1830–1840.”

Ephraim P. Peabody (1820–1888) married, first, Lavinia Woodbury of Wenham. She died in 1870 and he married, second, Ellen Berry, of Andover. At the time Towne was writing, she was still owner of the property, but she died in 1929 at the State Hospital in Danvers.

William Chester Long, a banker and brother of Henry (#51 High Street), married Mary Jackman (#31 South Main Street) in 1912 and acquired #40 in her name. Chester died in 1955, and Mary moved to an apartment at #22 Summer Street. Chester was an Assessor for three decades.

Albert T. Moulton, Jr., traffic manager, and his wife, Joan, occupied the house until 1963, and Thomas and Ruth Grady, from Lynn and Peabody occupied the apartment the Longs had fixed up for Mrs. Jackman.

The Moultons moved to Haverhill, but still owned the property in 1983.

#42 SOUTH MAIN STREET (See Map 5)

JHT writes, “This two story house was built for William P. Gallup in 1835, by Charles C. Brackett. A part of the shop in the rear of the house formerly stood on High Street and nearly opposite the entrance to the school grounds. It was then owned and occupied by David Lake, Jr., a shoe manufacturer, in 1834. The shop was afterward moved to present site, when it was raised and an addition built on for William P. Gallup.”

William P. Gallup had a son, William Webster Gallup, who owned the property at the time Towne was writing, and a granddaughter, Nellie, who married J.W.A. Perkins of Georgetown in 1881. Her son, William Augustus Perkins, was Town Clerk in Topsfield for the years 1920–1956, and used the shop for his printing business, removing to Florida in 1965, and selling to F. Parker Reidy, of Woodbriar Road (Bk.5268, p.307) The Reidy family lived here until moving to Portland in 1979, when Guy Rizza and Peter Beacham bought for investment.

Nellie (Gallup) Perkins married, second, 1899, Lewis

Chapman, an uncle of Evelyn Fales. Ev has supplied many notes on people recorded herein.

#46 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "Part of the frame of this two story house is very old and before 1800 it was probably located on the Porter-Cleaveland place, now the Church Home.

"An addition was made some years ago by Israel Gallup. In 1890, another story was added by Capt. Ruel B. Pray. In a small one story shop that formerly stood near the road and beside the fence adjoining the Balch-Jackman lot, Israel Gallup and Samuel Todd made fishermen's boots. The shop is now the ell of the present house." (In the Town Records, the name is spelled 'Galloupe').

Israel Gallup, a half brother of William P., died in 1864. Capt. Pray was a cigar maker. He died in 1896 and his widow, Caroline, a sister of Webster Gallup (see #42 South Main Street), was assessed for the property in 1908. The Prays had a son, William G., who died in 1911, ten years before Caroline's death. A daughter, Lottie, married James F. Eustin and had a son who was a circus Roustabout. He married the tattooed lady "Sugar", who was known to Ev Fales.

Guy C. Harrison was assessed for the property in 1923, and sold to Charles E. Lee, Tax Collector, 1929-34, who sold to George Barker, Real Estate Broker.

In 1937, John B. and Margaret W. (see #93 River Road) Gamans moved in, but the purchase from George Barker, of Ipswich, was not recorded until 1939 (Bk.3192, p.199). Mr. Gamans served as Selectman from 1948 to 1958 and was Assessor from 1969 to 1975. In 1964, the Gamans moved to #8 Prospect Street q.v. Myron A. Williams, Jr., a real estate broker, bought the South Main Street house and occupied it until selling to ABC Masconomet (Bk.6074, p.280) in 1974.

The office used by Mr. Williams, at the rear of the lot, was converted to a dormitory for the boys, most of whom come from poor city families, who were chosen to study here for four years. Most have graduated from college and have done well. The Director has the main house for his family.

#52 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In 1731–32 a two story house was built on this site by one Robinson. This would appear to be Jacob, Jr., as he was married in 1731. By 1892, it had been transformed into a barn and was still standing when Charles V. Jackman acquired the property.

In 1857–8, a one story house, originally a shop belonging to Israel Rea (1803–1883) on the Treadwell farm (#144 South Main) was sold to Abram Balch (1794–1872) who moved it to 'Sweeneyville' (north of Maple Street) and remodeled it into a house.

In 1891, Frank A. Pemberton, of Peabody, moved it again and remodeled on the lot at #52 South Main. The following year he built a shop and tool house near the barn, and in 1900 sold the property to Charles V. Jackman. Jackman moved it forward on the lot and made it into a two story dwelling.

The above is based on John H. Towne's article, which continues with the following notes: "Fifty years ago a small shop stood near the road and beside the fence adjoining the lot now owned by Mrs. Caroline Pray. Here Moses Richardson, a negro tinker, kept shop, and later, Samuel S. McKenzie opened a shop where he did watch and clock repairing and kept a small stock of jewelry. The shop was afterwards removed and used for a hen house. Seventy-five years ago, a tan yard was located just across the street at this point."

In 1908, Andy Jackman, a son of Charles V., was assessed on the house, a stable, tank house, and two sheds, besides the land. With his wife, Lottie Curtis, he lived here until 1953, when he sold his fuel business to C.&C. Elliott of Danvers.

Dr. Hugh F. Broderick, of Swampscott, occupied it in 1954 to 1956. In 1957–62 the house was occupied by Robert and Ruthann Van Metre, after which William and Darlene Simmons bought it and are still occupying.

#64 SOUTH MAIN STREET

This one and a half story house stands on a lot, at the corner of Pemberton Road, which was assessed to Mary E. Jackman in 1928 without the house. A. Belman Carter mar-

ried in 1928 and was listed as living on Main Street (now called South Main) on January 1, 1929, so this seems to fix the date of construction. Carter was a Selectman, from 1933 to 1947, and was a service station manager at the time of his retirement. He still occupied the house in 1980. His son, Alexander B. Carter, Jr., built a house at #66 South Main from a lot cut from #64.

#81 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Benjamin C. Orne in 1836-7 by Charles C. Brackett. It was owned and occupied for many years by Ariel H. Gould, butcher. He died here February 22, 1879, aged 60 years, 11 mos. and 4 days. A sheep barn in the rear was destroyed by fire on the night of October 21, 1885."

Calvin W. Fuller was assessed for the house in 1892. Both Orne of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, and Fuller, of Hudson, New Hampshire, were shoemakers. T. Jesse Fuller was a nephew of Calvin, whose daughter sold #81 to him (Jesse), probably about the time of Jesse's marriage in 1904. Jesse died in 1924 and his wife, Edith (Smith) had a rough time bringing up four sons in the depression years. I can remember her going to the Town pump in the village for their drinking water. Jesse held numerous town jobs; Forest Warden, Fence Viewer, Field Driver, Road Surveyor (1902-1914), and Road Commissioner (1915-1924).

Harry Fuller, the oldest son of Jesse and Edith, also held numerous Town jobs: Pound Keeper, Public Weigher, Tree Warden, Moth Superintendent, Field Driver, and Town Forest Committee. He married a second time in 1934 and continued to live here with his brothers until 1960, when he removed with his family to #102 River Road.

Charlie Fuller called #81 home, but as a seaman he spent little time in Topsfield. Roger Fuller died in 1934. Daniel Fuller, a leather worker, stayed on with his mother until her death in 1963. In 1977 he removed to Peabody, but still owned the property in 1980.

#82 SOUTH MAIN STREET

This lot was set off from the property at #94, in 1907,

by Benjamin P. Edwards for his daughter, Anne M. Wait, and had a plan recorded, but it does not appear in the Assessors' records of 1908, so it would appear the title was not recorded. It was assessed in 1923 with a house, garage, and playhouse, and shows an area of one and a half acres, although the plan showed somewhat less. Anne died in Reading in 1924. In 1928 the property was assessed to Martha Ives, ux Samuel.

In 1935 and 1944 the property stood in the name of Samuel, and they continued to live here until 1952, when the property was conveyed to their son, Lawrence, and his wife, 'Babe' Alma (Welch). In 1967 the lot was divided and Lawrence built a new house at #78, which they occupied until 1971.

The house at #82 was sold in 1969 to John Doane, who had been a tenant at #81. In 1979 he sold to Kristin Sawyer of Amesbury, who held until this writing.

#91 SOUTH MAIN STREET

This one story building, set back from the street, was originally the southern end of a store-house erected for Ariel Gould, at that time, probably about 1850, owner of the adjoining property. It was remodeled into a dwelling-house for Eugene Hussey in 1883, by Albert Batchelder. Hussey sold to Harriet Fuller, wife of Calvin, in 1885, but at the time Towne was writing it had become property of Dudley Bradstreet at #95.

In 1953, Alexander and Ruth (Benton) Houston sold #91 to Oakley Thibodeau (Bk.4067, p.311) and in 1958 he sold to Everett Eaton, Accountant, from Grove Street. He only occupied for three years, selling to John L. Donovan in 1961. Donovan only held for one year and sold to Nunzio Scuzzarella. His family stayed somewhat longer, and sold to Evelyn Pescosolido in 1971. She sold to Richard and Sue Corcoran (Registered Ld. #153,702) in 1975 who still occupy at this writing.

#94 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Thomas Averill in 1832 and remained in the possession of the family

until September 18, 1896, when it was sold to its present owner and somewhat remodeled. The small building that formerly stood beside the driveway and near the road was used as a shoe shop for a long time, and in after years was used as a paint shop by Sidney W. Averill, and was removed in 1896, by Mr. Edwards."

The Mr. Edwards, referred to by Towne, was Benjamin P. Edwards, who bought the druggist business of Charles S. Wiggin in 1877, became Assistant to the Postmaster and then Postmaster. He died in 1924, and his widow, Mary, sold the property (Bk.2607, p.84) to Foster Parker. Parker held briefly and turned it over to John Gibbons, who sold to Isaac Sawyer. After various straw transactions it was finally purchased by M. Helen Brewster, wife of William, in 1933. The Brewsters sold to Alfred Campbell, Realtor, and removed from town. The Campbells spent considerable amounts on the appearance of the property and presumably renovated internally.

After Mr. Campbell's death in 1964, his widow, Olive, sold to John and Jean Hughes, who held until 1979, when Dr. Robert A. Bellows acquired title.

#95 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for the present owner, Dudley Bradstreet, in 1902, by Henry H. Roberts. The location has been long known as the "tomb field", from the tomb that crowned the rising ground and which was built in 1832 and demolished in 1902 when the present house was erected upon its location. The bodies, ten in number, were removed during the winter 1901-2. In the corner of this lot nearest the Phillips house, formerly stood the house and barn where Martha, widow of John Cree, lived until her death, June 11, 1815, aged 94 years, 10 mos. and 14 days. The house was taxed for the last time in May, 1818. In a nine acre field on the rising ground in the rear and near what is now River street, stood, until 1800, a small house in which lived her son Joseph Cree. Dudley Bradstreet for many years past has been a prominent citizen in town affairs. Ref. HC Vol.VII, p.66, line 33 and line 27."

Dudley, a descendant of Governor Bradstreet, had six sons and three daughters. He appears to have acquired #91

(shown on the Assessors' map as #89) but it was not used as a dwelling for many years. The youngest daughter, Mehitable, known as Metha, was the last of the family to own the property which was subsequently purchased in 1951 by Alex and Ruth Houston of Grove Street. Alex taught in the Topsfield schools.

Alex and Ruth (Benton) Houston had four daughters, all born at the Salem Hospital. In 1968, with all their daughters grown, they sold the South Main Street house and moved to #127 Main Street. Thomas Wong, designer, of Danvers, bought it and occupies it at this writing.

#106 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "The middle part of this two story house of many angles, is said to be over 150 years old. Joel Lake built the easterly end in 1836-7 and he also made a considerable addition on the end toward the street, between 1857 and 1860. From this house, John Phillips, who was killed on River Hill, September 24, 1840, by being thrown from a horse, was buried with military honors by the Topsfield Warren Blues."

Joel Lake (1803-1860) married Mehitable Lake (of Newburyport?) (1805-1881) but no offspring are recorded in Topsfield. Anna, his sister (1810-1883) married Charles Sweeney, who had a daughter, Deborah. Deborah, who usually went under the name of Dora, married William Wildes in 1869, but he only lived for two years. In 1881, Dora married Orlando Poole, son of Benjamin.

Benjamin Poole had acquired title to Joel Lake's house before 1892, when he was assessed for it as well as one on Central Street.

At the time Towne was writing, 1901, Mrs. Henry Phillips owned the other half. Henry Phillips (1841-1897) was the grandson of Elizabeth Lake, and that probably accounts for the acquisition of the half interest by Horace Lake, who was assessed in 1908 through 1935. Ethel Lake was listed as of Topsfield in the Assessors' records of 1944, but she does not appear to have been registered here after 1940.

During the early 1950s Alphonse LeBel, metal worker, became a tenant and then in 1955 purchased the house and occupied it until 1969, when he sold to Joseph Burke of

Peabody. Burke and his wife occupied a portion of the house and rented a part, leaving in 1978.

#110 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for William G. Lake in 1834. He was married here in November, as soon as the house was completed. The front of the house was originally used for a shoe shop."

William G. Lake, husband of Mehitable, died in 1853, and Topsfield records do not show any son born with the same initials, but the property appears in 1892 as assessed to WM.G. Lake, and his death is recorded in 1907 at the age of 76. That would indicate his birth in 1851, the year William Perkins Lake was recorded. There is nothing in the Topsfield Vital Records that ties this Lake family with that of Horace or Ethel Lake at #106, but in 1901, according to Towne's article, Benjamin Poole owned this house as well as half of #106.

In 1906, Poole lost the property to the Georgetown Savings Bank, in default on a mortgage (Bk.1808, p.473-7), which sold it to Edward Thayer. In 1911, Thayer sold to Bella Bowser, wife of George. She died in 1935, and a daughter, Mildred B. Walter, purchased from the Bowser estate in 1939. Mildred was living on Washington Street and turned over the South Main Street house to George Barker, who sold it to Dorothy Styles in 1941, but there is nothing to indicate that she ever lived in town. In 1945, Charles and Gladys Linnehan occupied the house and lived there until building on Maple Street in 1955. Now owned by Phyllis McKeon.

#111 SOUTH MAIN STREET

At this site, according to J.H. Towne, formerly stood a one story house built for Miles Sweeney in 1851, by Samuel Clark. In 1920 it was purchased from Dora (Sweeney) Poole, his niece, by George Grantham for John L. Saltonstall (See #45 River Road).

#114 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This two story house was built by Robert C. Hackett in 1835, for his own occupancy. Between this

house and the William G. Lake house, formerly stood the Joseph Towne shoe shop which was built for Joseph Towne, sen., in 1856. In 1873 it was sold to Benjamin Lane, agent for John Bailey, and removed to its present location adjoining the Post office building by Jacob Foster."

The Post Office in 1901 was at #24 Main Street when the above quotation was written. Robert C. Hackett, referred to, married Susannah Templeton in 1836, and owned a grocery store at the corner of Maple Street. The Hacketts appear to have removed from Topsfield as #114 was in the name of Lorenzo P. Towne in 1866. He sold to Eliza Peirce in 1874, widow of William Peirce. She lived here until her death in 1906, and in 1914 the house was bought by Manuel Castle. His son, James K. Castle, an insurance man, was Selectman for Topsfield from 1956 to 1963 and took an active part in Town affairs. On retirement the Castles removed from town.

In 1970 Robert P. Mulcahy and his wife, Marilyn, moved from Concord with their family. He was with the New England Telephone Company at the time; now lists himself as a salesman.

#115 SOUTH MAIN STREET

According to JHT, "This one story house was originally a shoe shop, built for Joel Lake, in 1836, which stood nearly opposite the "Joel Lake house," now owned by Mrs. Henry Phillips. It was sold to Miles Sweeney about 1853, who had it removed to its present location and remodeled into a dwelling-house. March 21, 1857 it was purchased by Charles J.P. Floyd who had the house remodeled and an addition built in 1870. The shop between this house and the Poole house was built by Miles Sweeney in 1857. It was used as a dwelling-house until 1872 and afterwards as a shoe shop by Henry W. Phillips and later by Frederick Stiles."

For Joel Lake, see #106. C.J.P. Floyd was a harness-maker, who died in 1890. His wife, Elizabeth, owned the property at the time of Towne's writing. She died in 1904, and her son, Calvin, moved to Danvers.

Frederick Stiles (1815-1902) was a shoe manufacturer and a member of the Warren Blues. He does not appear to have owned the property, as an attorney for C.P. Floyd sold

it, in 1917, to Alphonso Roberto.

In 1946, Grazia Roberto transferred to Guiseppi Ciarciello, an Italian who never became registered. In 1958 Carmella, daughter of Guiseppi, married John Ellsworth of Danvers, and they continued to live here, buying the house in 1976 (Bk.6225, p.660).

#118 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes, "This one story house, now occupied by Albert Lefavour, was originally a grocery store, built and occupied by Robert C. Hackett in 1834. It was remodeled into a dwelling house and an ell added in 1837, for William G. Lake, sen."

William G. Lake (Jr.?, see note under #110), before the days of Park Commissioners, was 'Caretaker of the Common'. In 1923 he sold this house to Angelo Papa of New York City and was living on Prospect Street, #17. Papa was assessed for the house in 1935.

In 1934 John Pirrotta of Salem married Rose M. Papa. In 1976 Rose died. John and John, Jr. are still living there.

#144 SOUTH MAIN STREET

JHT writes about the house removed to #214 Ipswich Road: "The Agricultural Farm, Main Street. Dr. Richard Dexter, who came from Malden, married, in 1741, Mehitable, sister of Gen. Israel Putnam, and probably about that time had built the house which is now standing. The outside entrance to the cellar is through an arch beneath the great chimney. It is said the Madam Dexter, who was a fine equestrienne, while the house was in process of construction, rode her horse into the second story by way of an inclined platform that was used in carrying the building supplies. It is also said that a detachment of troops returning from Arnold's expedition against Quebec, camped under the large pine tree in front of the house. This farm was originally owned by Isaac Esty whose wife was hung as a witch in 1692. In 1809 the property again came into the possession of the Esty family, being owned by Enos Esty. It then passed to Dr. John Treadwell who bequeathed the property in 1857 to the Essex Agricultural Society to be used as an experimental farm. The large

barn was built by the Society in 1859. J.H. Potter was the carpenter. See HC Vol. VI, p.53; Vol. VII, p.68, line 23."

#146 SOUTH MAIN STREET

The Essex County Agricultural Cooperative Society was formed after World War I with the idea that farm machinery could be purchased and rented to members. The problem was that farmers all wanted certain machinery, such as hay balers, at the same time, so the society became a purchasing agent, paying a small dividend to members on their membership fee.

The house at #144 was removed, but rooms in the office building are rented. In 1978 the old barn timbers could no longer take the strain of the loads to which they were submitted and a complete new store house constructed.

The site of the William Towne house, home of the 'Salem Witches' was in the field bordered by South Main Street and Salem Road. See HC Vol. VIII, p.27.

STAGECOACH ROAD

Laid out in 1956; accepted in 1958. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

SUMMER STREET

#13 SUMMER STREET

This one and a half story house was the barn for a house which stood nearer to the road, that burned in 1921. Cay Torrey remembers the fire was fought with buckets, hauling water, probably from the brook beyond South Main Street. But the loss was complete.

According to John H. Towne, the house had been built by John H. Potter, in 1875, for Daniel Fuller who died in 1909. His heirs were assessed for the present house in 1923, and his daughter, Genie, after her divorce from Paul Kimball of Park Street, lived out her life there. She received full title in 1932 (Bk.2988,p.452). Her will, probated in 1947, Case

218, 170, left the real estate to Helen S. Bradley of Bradford.

In 1952 H.S. Bradley sold to Richard L. Shaw and his wife (Bk.3929,p.589). They occupied the house until 1960, and sold to J.B. Englehard, who held the property for fifteen years, since which it has turned over four times in eleven years.

#18 SUMMER STREET

This hip roof house was built in 1901 for Daniel Hubbard (1862-1932), and purchased by Richard and Maxine Crocker in 1946, when they moved from Washington Street. Richard was a postal worker. Maxine, a daughter of Karl and Daisy Smerage of #54 Main Street q.v., still owns the Summer Street property.

#22 SUMMER STREET

This two and a half story house was originally the grain shed attached to the store of William Poor at #51 Main Street. In 1936, Melvin Smerage bought it and had it moved and modeled into a house where Leslie and Evelyn (Smerage) Fales made their residence for twelve years. Melvin Smerage died in 1940 and his widow married William Skeffington and moved into a lower apartment in 1945. Bessie (Welch) (Smerage) Skeffington died at the age of 93 in 1974. Present owner is Russell Osborne, son of the Osbornes at #46 Central Street.

(INTERSECTION WITH CENTRAL STREET)

The balance of the houses on Summer Street were built after 1950 on lots partitioned from #43 High Street for A. Clayton Parker in 1944 by the author.

SURREY LANE

First lots laid out in 1972. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

THOMPSON LANE

Started in 1977; accepted in 1980. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

TIMBERLANE

Started in 1967; redesigned in 1970; accepted in 1980.
(See HC Vol. XXXIII)

TOWNE LANE

Laid out in sections, starting in 1961; accepted in 1969.
(See HC Vol. XXXIII)

VALLEY ROAD

#2 VALLEY ROAD

This one story house with detached barn and shop (not visible from the road) was assessed to Archer A. Towne in 1928 and January 1935. That year he sold to Gertrude Peterson of Asbury Street and she to her husband, Bernard Kemp. He does not appear as a registered voter in Topsfield and may have used it as a summer camp. Gertrude was registered here through 1941. In 1944 Ronald Peverly bought and continued to hold until 1968, when it was sold to Fred and Rosalyn Smith from Ipswich.

#8 VALLEY ROAD

John J. Watson came from Cape Breton, N.S. and married Eliza Perkins in 1886. He owned property on Perkins Row (#31 assessed to him in 1892-1908) at the time Thomas Proctor was buying up everything he could in Topsfield. In 1928, Watson was assessed for this property with house and barn, for \$1,200.00, and the same in 1935. Eliza died in 1914 and he in 1936. Hazel M., a second (common law) wife, moved into the Boston Street house with Allen T., son

of Eliza, and in 1939 removed to Florida, but this house was held in his name and rented to Ruth Barnard and others.

In 1972, the title passed to Chester Masse from Hazel Watson, guardian for Allen (Bk.5887, p.564).

#14 VALLEY ROAD

Was a filling station run by Mr. John F. Jenne, Jr., who moved from the Turnpike in 1938. Russell James bought from Lela Jenne, widow, in 1956, and sold in 1963 to Dean and Jane Stump, who still occupy.

#18-20 VALLEY ROAD

This one story house was built in 1939 by Russell James. The James' rented it out after 1947, while living next door.

#22 VALLEY ROAD

This one story house and two car garage was built by the Russell James in 1946, and occupied by them ever since.

All the houses beyond #22 were built since 1956.

WALKER ROAD

Laid out in 1951; Green Acres subdivision. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

WASHINGTON STREET

#1 WASHINGTON STREET

This two and a half story house faces on Washington Street with an ell and barn extending along Main Street, from which the present occupants enter. Under Towne's arrangement, he called the house on Main Street. Under the present description, if the attic has a full window, the house is rated at having a half story in addition to the number of full floors.

In 1902 JHT writes, "This two story house, now (1902) used as a hotel, was built for Stillman Stone in 1832." Stone had married Sarah Mason of Sullivan, New Hampshire in



1 Washington Street in 1900.



1 Washington Street in 1989.

1830, but she died in May, 1832 and a child, unnamed, in September 1833. Towne continues, "Mr. Stone built a small carpenter shop in 1827-8, beyond where the stable now stands, which in 1834-5, became the property of Richard Phillips jr. He removed it and remodeled it into the house now owned by J.B. Lake." (see #110 Main Street).

(I'm rephrasing some of Towne's article) In 1837, a shop, the first story of which was constructed of stone from Crooked Pond in Boxford, was built for Mr. Phillips. The upper floor was used by him as a shoe shop, and in the lower floor William Briggs Reed kept a grocery store as early as 1838. In after years, this was occupied by Miss Caroline Pingree (Mrs. B.J. Balch) and Miss Harriet M. Kimball as a millinery shop. In 1838 the Congregational parish leased a strip of land along Washington Street to Phillips for 999 years.

In 1850 the house was occupied by Dr. Charles French.

In May, 1884, while owned and occupied as a hotel by John G. Ryder, a fire destroyed the barn, a two story shop, and a two story house facing on Main Street, about opposite #93, known as the 'Shepard House'. At the time of Towne's writing the hotel was owned by Augustus W. Smith, who still owned it at the time of his death in 1913. His wife lived until 1923, after which the property passed to Edward Smith of Newburyport.

In 1928 the property was assessed to Grace (Mrs. F. Percy) Smerage and she and her husband lived in the house and ran the Homestead Tea Room, after which they moved to Central Street in 1946, when William and Grace Benson took it over. During the 1950s it turned over twice, Edwin and Helen Thompson acquiring it 1957 and holding until they built at #55 Howlett Street in 1966.

In 1966, Bernard Rolsma, Electrical Engineering Consultant of Michigan, moved his large family from #22 Winsor Lane and set up a business in the large barn making fibre glass specialized tanks. It is Patricia Rolsma, his wife, who plays the carillon in the Congregational Church at noon each day.

For his business, Mr. Rolsma uses #94 Main Street as his address.

#12 WASHINGTON STREET

One and a half story house built in 1947. Charles Phinney was the first occupant. In 1973, John A. Wells, Stationary Engineer.

#14 WASHINGTON STREET

One story house with attached garage, built in 1946 for David Govani, who owned it until 1952, since when it has been held by Dermont and June Hughes.

#15 WASHINGTON STREET

This one story house of many ells was built for Frank J. McManus, Jr. and his wife, Constance (Guay) (see #104 Main Street) in 1949-50. In 1958 Peter Kimball purchased it and lived here until 1979, and his family until this writing.

#20 WASHINGTON STREET

This two and a half story house was described by J.H. Towne as follows: "This house, now occupied by James Walch, was built by Capt. Israel D. Elliott in 1826. It was afterward owned and occupied by Samuel Janes. In 1882-3 it was remodeled and raised to two stories by John H. Potter for Jacob Martin Towne. The frame of this house was originally raised two stories, but was blown down by a heavy gale of wind, and the timbers were so broken up that it was finally rebuilt of one story in 1826."

Sarah P. (Peabody) Towne was assessed for the property at the time John H. Towne was writing. She died in 1917 at the age of 87. Julia M. Browne, wife of Clarence, was assessed for the house in 1923 and 1935, but they had been living here some time, as their son, Earle, was called of Topsfield when he married Gertrude Young, of Topsfield, in 1911. Clarence died in 1940.

In 1944 Arthur E. Churchill had acquired the house and sold to Walter Scribner.

In 1946, Thomas Ralph, Electrical Contractor, bought the property (Bk.3492, p.122) and lived here with his family until 1967, when he and his wife moved to the newly built house at #18. Thomas, Jr. and Patricia continued here, and

in 1982 Patricia married Robert Kolowski and was still occupying at the time of this writing.

#25 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 6)

JHT writes, "This one story house, known as "High Rock Cottage", was built in 1856-7 by Isaiah M. Small for his own occupancy, it being modeled after John W. Hutchinson's house at High Rock, Lynn. Between this house and the road there formerly stood, before 1800, a two story house, which was taken down about 1825, and in its place another two story house was erected, the first story being built of brick. The latter was long known as the "Hart house". It was taken down in 1895. A barn that stood near where the railroad runs at the present time, was struck by lightning about eight o'clock, on the evening of September 27, 1850, and destroyed by fire. The property was long known as the Cyrus Webster place."

At the time John H. Towne wrote, the house stood in the name of Mrs. Susan Perkins, and she was still assessed for it in 1908. Topsfield Vital Records give her death date as 1915.

In 1923 Harry W. Perkins, son of Justin and Emma, was assessed for the house at twice the value, but the land and barn (see note below #375 Boston Street) at the same figure as earlier. Harry was an orthodontist. He died in 1967, age 82, and his second wife, Bertha (Gates) Foxworth, moved to Florida when Paul Best, an attorney, took title (Bk.6546, p.414).

In 1975 Thomas and Constance Bubier of Stoneham purchased the property.

#33 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 6)

According to JHT this "summer cottage" was built for the Rev. Francis A. Poole by Henry H. Roberts in 1899. Poole was the Congregational minister here from 1895-1899. Laurette Cleaveland bought (Bk.1808, p.426), but it apparently was still a summer cottage. Henry P. Pratt, Executor of her will, sold to Ruth (Ferguson) and John Walsh, who winterized the house and lived here from 1930 to 1959, when they moved to Grove Street.

In 1942 a daughter, Norma Walsh, married Winfield



25 Washington Street in 1900.



25 Washington Street in 1989.

Perkins of #25 Washington Street.

In 1960, the Rev. Roy Hatt and his wife moved from Andover and lived there until 1967, when Richard H. Stowe, Jr., Accountant, and his wife moved from Beverly.

#39 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 6)

This one and a half story house was built in 1945 for Roger and Dorothy (Wildes) Griffin, who still occupy at this writing (see #41).

#41 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 6)

This one and a half story house, according to Towne, was built in 1872 for Mrs. Mary J. Roberts, and an addition made in 1888 by her son, Henry H. Roberts. She died in 1907 and her heirs sold to Hazen Wildes. Hazen had several children, the oldest of whom was James William, who married Lila M. Deering in 1915 (For Deering, see #109 North Street).

Roger E. Wildes, grandson of Hazen, married Joanne Maynard of Danvers in 1948, brought up their children here and still occupy at this writing (1983).

Dorothy Wildes, Roger's sister, married Roger Griffin (see #39).

#42 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 6)

JHT writes, "This property, named by the present owner, "Pinelands", was long known as the John Gould place. The old house, built in 1769, was taken down October 4, 1883, by John H. Potter, for the owner, John A. Gould of Boston. Some of the material was utilized in building the present house. The old barn was built about 1750 and then stood near the road and on a site about half way between the driveway and the Geyer house. In September, 1853, it was moved to a point about seventy feet from its present location, and in 1895 it was again moved and rebuilt into the present stable. In 1895 the present two story house was built for its owner, by Mr. Higgins of Malden. See HC Vol. VI, p.75."

George L., husband of Lizz (Lawrence) Gould, died in 1921, and the property was inherited by Bertram C. Gould, his son, of Malden. George was in the paint and varnish business, and left a bequest to start a fund to build the Public



42 Washington Street in 1900.



42 Washington Street in 1989.

Library. Bertram, one of the Commissioners of Trust Funds for the town, married Lucy Vigas. Having no children, they adopted a boy and girl. At the time Bertram died in 1943, he left the house with barn, garage and some 16 acres to Lucy, which were acquired by Thomas A. O'Keefe, who was in the leather manufacturing business. It was he who employed the present writer to sub-divide the area now known as Glen and Porter Meadow Roads.

In 1958, O'Keefe met with business problems and sold to the Lester and Phyllis Peabody Realty Company, which carried on the sub-division and sold the house with one and a half acres to David L. and June Munro of Beverly. The Munro's are still in residence at this writing.

The many-times removed 'stable' was converted to a garage, probably by Bertram Gould, and when O'Keefe started the Glen Road subdivision, it was made into a dwelling (#4 Glen Road) and a garage built under the house at #42.

#43 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 6)

This one story house, by J.H. Towne's way of reckoning, was built for William H. Wildes in 1875, by John H. Potter. He had married Eunice H. Richardson, of Middleton, in 1865, and they lived out their lives in this house; she until 1928, he until 1930. Their son, Hazen R., had married in 1897 and had a son, James William, born in 1898, who took over #43 at the time of his grandfather's death. Actually the title stood in Della Deering's name. She was James' mother-in-law.

James William Wildes died in 1965 and his wife, Lila (Deering), long time chief telephone operator in Topsfield, in 1972.

In 1973 David Sweet of Hamilton bought and held the house for four years, selling to Peter Beacham in 1977 (Bk.6393, p.130).

#45 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 6)

This one (now two) story house was built for Moses Wildes, Jr. and his second wife, Sarah J. (Lombard) in 1878, by Albert Chesley. He was called Jr. because there was another Moses Wildes in Topsfield, but not his father. This one,

Junior, died in 1895 and left the house to his wife, his son, H. Walter Wildes, having pre-deceased him.

Sarah Wildes died in 1909, intestate, and her nearest relatives were Hannah Ring, Servitus and William Lombard, all of Maine. However, she had sold the property to Ada N.L. (Mrs. Frank) Ward in 1907. Ada transferred to William A. Butcher (Bk.2299, p.112) and his wife left it in her will to Ethel Speakmen, of Florida, who passed it on to Eva Jerrard, assessed for it in 1928.

In 1920 Charles E. Pethybridge came to Topsfield to take over as Principal of the Topsfield High School. He and his wife were boarding on High Street when they bought the house at #45 in the name of Elsie M. Pethybridge, during the early 30's. Elsie died at the age of 84, in 1968, and Charles at the age of 92 in 1977. Their daughter, Lois, long employed in the Town offices, in 1983, still resides in a house she has occupied for half of her life.

#51 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 6)

This two story house with gable and exterior chimney toward the street, was built in 1898 for Miss Esther Gould (1847-1914) by Henry H. Roberts, on one and a half acres. By 1923, it was assessed to Mary (Janes) Poor, wife of James Poor, the grocer, but she lived on Main Street.

The house was occupied by Katherine Poor, widow of William Bailey Poor, grocer, of Georgetown, and Wilhelmina, a nurse, who stayed until her death in 1975. Ownership shifted three times before the house burned in 1984.

#52 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 6)

This one story house was built for Andrew Geyer in 1886 by Isaac Berry of Danvers. His death is not recorded in Topsfield, but his widow, Amanda (Sayward) died in 1908 and his daughter, Fredericka lived out her 101 years here, in 1964. She used a hand pump for water until she was 100, and never did have electricity!

In 1965, Dale and Clara Green of Hamilton took over and occupied for three years, bringing it out of the nineteenth century, and selling to Timothy and Crete Cook. Present owner, Martin Murphy, U.S.A.F. retired, bought the house in 1972.

#54 WASHINGTON STREET

JHT writes, "This one story house was built for Joseph Cressey in 1837 by Orin Stone. An old fashioned shoe shop formerly stood near the road and adjoining the Ray-Geyer boundary line." Cressey died in the Danvers State Hospital in 1897, age 82. The shoe shop was offered to the Historical Society, but it was turned down.

Horace Ray bought the house from Cressey (Bk.998, p.54) and sold in 1921 to his son, Leslie S. Ray, M.E., but retained a quarter acre of land conveyed by George Burnham, and some other parcels not held by Cressey.

Leslie Ray married Hope F. Towne of E. Providence, in 1926, and had one son, Leslie S., Jr., born in 1929. Les, senior, died in 1969, and Hope kept the house until 1977 when she moved to #69 Washington Street. At the time of their marriage, considerable interior work was done; heat, water and electricity. There have been several tenants since Hope moved.

#55 WASHINGTON STREET

This one story house with Mansard roof, was built for John Fiske in 1873, by John H. Potter. John had married Adeliza Minerva Pike, at Salem in 1867. They had a son, John Leonard, born 1872, who married Bessie L. Frame. The latter inherited the house when her husband died in 1922, and she lived alone here for 37 years.

In 1959, Robert A. Nickerson, an accountant, moved with his wife, Laura, from Brook Road, and were still owners at the time of this writing.

#57 WASHINGTON STREET

John H. Towne gives no information on this two story house other than its date of construction, 1876 by George A. Towne, and the owner in 1901 as Charles Perkins. There were several Charles Perkins in Topsfield, but he was the one who married Eliza Averill, in 1852. He was born in Salem and was a trader in Gloucester. In the 1892 Assessors' list this is called the 'new house', but the owner lived at #61, q.v.

Charles Perkins had a daughter, Carrie E., who married Alonzo Burnham. She inherited the 'tenement' as well as other

property in 1916, and was taxed for it in 1923.

From this date it turned over frequently: in 1924 to Anna Larkin; in 1927 to Fred K. Andrews (Bk.2516, p.562); and in 1935, Don and Marion Walsh bought it (Bk.3061, p.87) and made it their home for 24 years. Dan, as he was always called, died in 1958, and Marion stayed until 1965.

From 1966 to 1972 it stood in the names of Don and Marjorie (Connors) Brown, after which they moved to Maine, selling to Robert Dvorak, Librarian. Present owner is Philip Mahoney, Vocational Instructor.

#61 WASHINGTON STREET

Concerning this property, JHT reports, a "one story house, occupied by its owner was built for Hiram Wells in 1836, by Maj. Wm. Low of Boxford. The two story house was built in 1876 by George A. Towne." Wells died in 1892 and his estate was taxed for it that year. By 1901 it stood in the name of Charles Perkins (see #57). His daughter, Carrie Evelyn, born in 1861, married Alonzo Burnham, who died in 1896.

Carrie had two children, Lottie Eveline and Wayland. The son was Highway Superintendent of the Town for many years, and lived here with his second wife, Florence (Robertson) until 1943, when they removed to #79 Haverhill Road. His daughter, Avis Rebecca, married Anthony Longo, and inherited #61 from her grandmother.

In 1944, Anthony and A. Rebecca Longo moved from #79 Haverhill Road with their daughter, Mary Caroline (married in 1972), and still make their home here at this writing.

Because of the low roof line, the second floor front windows are smaller than customary construction.

#68 WASHINGTON STREET

This one story house was built for James H. Conley in 1876, by George A. Towne. James died, a widower, in 1897, age 73. He had a son, Samuel Conley (see #94 River Road and #19 South Main Street).

James McIntire owned #68 Washington Street for a few years and sold, in 1903, to James L. Ward (Bk.1706, p.71) who does not appear to have been a resident of Topsfield

when he sold it to Anne P. (Ward) Cochintu of Long Beach, New York in 1932, together with other real estate. From 1954 to 1967, part of the house was occupied by Anne W. Cochintu, a social worker, and she is still assessed for it at this writing, and rents to tenants.

#69 WASHINGTON STREET

Little Brook Village. Federal Aid Housing for elderly. First occupied in 1976.

#70 WASHINGTON STREET

"This two story house", according to JHT, writing in 1901, "was built for Elizabeth W. Burnham, in 1881, by Albert H. Towne of Boxford", and was occupied by her son, George W. at that time (1901).

George married a second time in 1891, to Anne Belle (Pitman) Berry, and had a daughter, Gladys (1894-1962) who lived her whole life in this house. Another daughter, Alice, married Albert Warren in 1925, and they lived on Main Street until George's death in 1931, when they moved here to share the house with Gladys.

Alice became a widow in 1953, and after her sister, Gladys's passing, she lived alone for fourteen years, finally moving to Lebanon, New Hampshire, near her daughter.

As a teacher, "Miss" Burnham was known to generations of Topsfield children.

#71 WASHINGTON STREET

This two story house was built in 1936 for Hosmer and Jean Eldredge. The Eldredges occupied until 1954 and sold to Warren N. Bixby, Jr., in the real estate business, and his wife, Anne. Warren left Topsfield in 1966, and Anne stayed on with her large family until 1973, when the house was acquired by Bayard C. Ewing, Hospital Administrator, and his wife, Vicki.

Since 1976 the property has turned over a number of times.



Little Brook Village and Washington Meadows, Senior Citizens Residence Centers.

All houses #72-98 were built subsequent to 1967.

#94 WASHINGTON STREET

Approximately where the entrance to Washington Meadows is now, there formerly stood a house assessed to Job Frame. JHT writes, "This is the old John Gould Place. The two story house, formerly located a short distance southwesterly from the present house, was standing in 1798, and was taken down in 1869 by S. Webster Perkins, the new house being built for him the same year by John H. Potter. Ref. HC Vol. VII, p.73, line 3."

At the time Towne was writing in 1901, the property was one of a number assessed to Job Frame (1844-1922) and in the year 1923, it was assessed to Almira, his widow. In 1928 it had passed out of the Frame name but was assessed to the heirs and devisees of Almira.

That house, built in 1869, on John Gould's old place, was burned in November, 1936, when boys playing with matches set fire to hay in the barn. Horton D. Bradstreet's family moved to #99 Washington Street, where Faith Bradstreet, his sister, lived. Horton was a grandson of Dudley Bradstreet, see #95 South Main Street.

#99 WASHINGTON STREET

JHT writes, "This one story house was built for Josiah L. Gould in 1850, by Isaiah M. Small. The present barn was moved here from the Josiah Gould farm in 1878."

Josiah L. Gould died in 1939, age 84, in Danvers; his wife, Sarah Josephine (Bradstreet) in 1946, age 93. Her brother, Horace D., was in possession of the house in 1901 and left it to his daughter, Faith, a spinster, when he died in 1932.

Faith Bradstreet was a sister of Horton, and when his house burned in 1936, she invited his family to share her house. Horton was one of the last farmers in Topsfield who worked his own land, but the loss of his home and barn was a severe blow, and he began to sell the land for development.

At the age of 57, Faith married Ernest E. Peabody of Danvers, and removed from Topsfield, but she was back at the Washington Street house in 1947. Horton and his wife

both died in 1979. The house is now owned by Ernest Tremblay, Restaurateur.

#111 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 4)

JHT writes, "This two story house was built for Dea. John Gould about 1765. Capt. Benjamin Gould of Revolutionary fame lived here in 1778-9. The property was sold March 25, 1791, to Rev. Asahel Huntington, who was settled over the church in 1789. He died here April 22, 1813. His son, Dr. Elisha Huntington, Mayor of Lowell and Lieut.-Governor of Massachusetts, was born in this house April 9, 1796, as was another son, Asahel, July 23, 1798, who was Mayor of Salem and for many years District Attorney and Clerk of Courts for the County of Essex."

At the time Towne was writing the house was occupied by Joachim Stark who lived here with his wife, Frederica (1842-1916), dying shortly before World War I. Their daughter, Emma, married Nathan Dow, and lived here until 1927. The property known as the Kinsman Farm, was owned by James Kinsman in the 1880's.

In 1928, Alice and Melvin Walter of Melrose, were in possession with half the acreage and sold in 1941 to Benjamin English, Industrial Engineer (Bk.3256, p.538). Ben and his wife, Ruth, held the property until 1970, when they retired to New Hampshire. Dorman Burley, newspaper manager, held for four years and turned it over to Harry C. Carpenter, Pediatrician.

In 1798, the house was only one story. Ref. HC Vol. VII, p.76, line 14.

#114 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 4)

This lot was purchased from Nathan Dow, who sold a number of lots from land originally known as the Kinsman Farm. As related by J. Robert Fuller, his father wanted to buy, but Dow refused to sell on the basis that the Fullers had no money. John, the father, arranged to buy through a straw, and during the 1920s bought a prefabricated house from the mid-west, had it shipped by rail, and father and son hauled it up from the freight yard in a wagon. When a mortgage was finally recorded with the Fuller's name on it, Dow was furious.



111 Washington Street.



119 Washington Street.

In 1923 Emma was assessed for a house, barn, wood house, wagon house, poultry house and garage, beside 86 acres of fields and pastures and three acres of meadow; while Nathan was assessed for \$1,035 personal effects. Until Emma's death in 1938, title to the land still remained in her name.

J. Robert Fuller was married in 1937, and made his home here until 1958, when he moved to his mother's house at #23 Boxford Road, and rented this property. In 1944 J. Robert Fuller was assessed for the house at #114, barn, shop and seventeen acres of land.

After some interim occupancy, in 1963, E. Frank Austen of Boston, took possession and lived here until 1969, when the title passed to C.I. Tertius Downs, stock broker, who still lives there at this writing.

#119 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 4)

JHT writes, "This is the John Gould, jr. place, a house being built by him for his own occupancy immediately after he sold the house across the road to Rev. Asahel Huntington in 1791. A barn standing near the house was destroyed by fire on the afternoon of December 12, 1836; cause unknown. Ref. HC Vol. VII, p.73, line 11."

Lucy Gould (1831-1911) occupied the house at the time Towne was writing.

Arthur W. Haines, a banker from Melrose, and his wife, Josephine, owned the house for a third of a century.

In 1953, Lester Downing, son-in-law of the Haines, moved from Lexington, and although retired, he undertook a major overhaul of the house, jacking it up in order to replace the foundation, and replacing a number of main timbers which had become filled with termites, so there is little of the original eighteenth century house left.

In 1956 Robert and Priscilla Hawkins from Milford, Connecticut, bought and occupied for eight years.

In 1964, Robert and Priscilla Dodge moved from Wenham and occupied the house for twelve years, selling to William B. Whiting, Planning Supervisor, and his wife, Roberta, who were from Rhode Island and still occupy at this writing.

An additional room has been added on the northwest corner of the house since the major renovation.

#129 WASHINGTON STREET (See Map 4)

JHT writes, "This two story house was taxed to Capt. Joseph Gould as early as 1745, and it remained in the Gould name until May 15, 1872, when it was conveyed to Timothy Fuller. The house was remodeled somewhat by his heirs in 1900-01. Ref. HC Vol. VII, p.73, line 22-37."

In 1900 and 1908 this property was assessed to the heirs of Timothy Fuller, and in 1923 to Willie Fuller for a dwelling, barn, stable, and ice house. In 1941, William C. Abbott, in the leather business, acquired title and made interior renovations to bring it up from the eighteenth century to the twentieth. Mr. Abbott served on the Finance Committee from 1948-1954, as Assessor from 1955-1960, and on the Town Forest Committee in 1962. In 1954 a hurricane in Topsfield tipped over a very large elm in front of the house which crashed through the roof and front wall, but spared the main roof timber at the top. When Mr. Abbott retired to New Hampshire in 1968, the property was acquired by Dr. Michael Schiff from Boxford. The Schiff family continue here at this date.

#140 WASHINGTON STREET

This two story house with semi-attached garage, northeast of the Lockwood Lane intersection, was built in 1946 for Samuel Warren Forrest, Jr., and his wife, Thelma, who still occupies it. Warren was Postmaster for Topsfield from 1947 to 1973 when he retired. He is buried in Tilton, New Hampshire.

#158 WASHINGTON STREET

This one story house, with a small ell on a larger ell at the left end of the house, was built on land of Frank A. Greenleaf, surveyed by T.A. Appleton, in May 1941 (see Bk.3257, p.562). Fred H. Chase and his wife, Gertrude, lived here from 1941 to the time of his death in 1979, and Gertrude still occupied at this writing.

#164 WASHINGTON STREET

This house was first occupied from by John Crossman

and his wife in 1949. Owner since 1966 is Harold Moore, former Police Chief, retired in 1981.

#167-195 WASHINGTON STREET

All odd numbered houses in this series were applied to houses built in the 'Clover Farms' development subsequent to 1952.

#174-189 WASHINGTON STREET

These houses were all built on lots cut up in 1950-1952.

#190 WASHINGTON STREET

This one story house with exposed basement was built in 1949 by John and Mildred Pratt of Pemberton Road. The Pratt's still occupy at the time of this writing. Mr. Pratt, now retired, served many years as a milkman.

(INTERSECTION WITH RIVER ROAD)

#221 WASHINGTON STREET

In 1945 there was a George Poirier who bought on Washington Street before street numbers were assigned. I believe that he occupied the house that is presently number #221 Rear, but before the subdivision of the area in the fifties, the whole lot was given number 225, and this is the number used by Joseph Friend when he purchased the property and built a new house at the present #225 site, although he was living temporarily at #221 Rear. #221 Rear and #215 were cut off and first occupied #215 by June O. Richards in 1956, #221R by Thomas and Elizabeth Tagg from Boxford (Bk.4647, p.41) in 1960. Joseph Putnam Friend, Facilities Engineer, and his wife, Lena E., a registered nurse, still occupy #225. June Richards married Ralph A. Landolfi and held until 1966, when she sold to Charles H. and Glenice Noyes. The house now #221 was built later and first occupied in 1967 by a British couple from New Jersey; Neil R. Brookes, Aero Engineer, and Pamela, homemaker.

#234 WASHINGTON STREET

This house was built in 1947 and occupied by Leo and

Arlene Brissette from 1947 through 1953. Plyn Williams, artist, and Selma Williams, news editor, moved in 1957 from William Road to this one overlooking the Fish Brook meadows, and still occupy at this writing. A one and a half story garage stands closer to the road, and has an apartment upstairs.

WENHAM ROAD

#23 WENHAM ROAD

This one story house was built in 1935 for an employee of Sargent Wellman's, Preuss, a chauffeur. It was occupied by Prudence (Wellman) Leonard and her husband, Joseph, 1947-1953, then by John S. and Rita Kelley, for a year, followed by Luigi and Edith Angeline, caretakers for Sargent and Mary Wellman, across the road at #28.

In 1963 Harry and Virginia MacDonald bought from Mrs. Wellman and have occupied for nearly a quarter century.

#28 WENHAM ROAD

JHT writes, "The eastern end of this two story house is quite old. It was taxed to Jacob Dwinell, jr., as early as 1772, and it was sold by J. Dwinell, jr., and Cornelius Balch, April 19, 1777, to Nathaniel Richardson of Salem. He sold the property to John Peabody, April 3, 1782, and since that date it has remained in the Peabody name. In 1807 it was remodeled by John Peabody, jr., who added the western end at the same time. The granite for the foundation was hauled by oxen from Quincy, thirty-five miles away. See HC Vol. VII, p.80, line 3."

Charles J. Peabody, who owned the property at the time Towne was writing, was assessed in 1908 for the house, a barn, wood house, hen house and shed, cows, oxen, horses and near 60 acres of land. In 1894 he helped organize the Topsfield Historical Society and became Vice-President. In 1889 he gave an address to the Essex Agricultural Society on the Transactions of the Society for 1889.

Mr. Peabody had two daughters, but no son, and with advancing years and the difficulty of getting help during World



129 Washington Street.



28 Wenham Road.

War I, he removed to 3 acres at #43 High Street, where he remained until his death in 1930.

Mary (Lines) Wellman, wife of Sargent, a well known Boston lawyer, bought the property at #28 in 1921. Sargent served as Moderator at Town Meetings from 1948-1961, and as Trustee of the Public Library for several terms, and on the Finance Committee, 1934-1946 (see #22 Wenham Road and #82 Salem Road). After Sargent's death, Mary had the house at #103 Salem road built, q.v.

Mrs. Wellman, as a teenager, was aboard the SS Titanic when it struck an "iceberg"*. The Topsfield Historical Society has a tape recording which she made, telling of her experience. Mrs. Wellman was an official in Girl Scouts, and served as Topsfield Library Trustee from 1932 to 1947 and 1950 to 1960.

**Examination at the bottom of the Atlantic shows the rupture to the Titanic's hull was caused by internal explosion.*

Jackson O. Welsh, Investment Advisor, bought #28 in 1963, moving from Connecticut, and still occupied with his family, as of 1983.

#51 WENHAM ROAD

This gambrel roofed mansion of many angles, two and one half stories in one section, two stories in another, with lower connection between, was designed by W.G. Rantoul for George and Annie Shattuck of Salem in 1906-07.

Mr. Shattuck, originally from Winchester, and schooled in Boston, was a descendant of two sea captains of Salem. Until 1906 he was connected with the freight department of the Boston and Albany Railroad. In Salem he served on the Common Council in 1904 and 1905, was Treasurer of the Salem Trust Funds Commission, Overseer of the Poor, Trustee of the Salem Hospital, The Salem Savings Bank, the Essex Institute and on the boards of several business organizations.

The Topsfield house was used as a summer home, and was always assessed to Annie, his wife. George died in 1915, aged 47, and his daughter, Jane, appears to have been the manager of the farm, although there were two sons. Annie

and Jane did not become year round residents until 1934, and Otis in 1940.

The house is situated on the easterly brow of Pingrees Hill and commands a great view from Ipswich to Peabody. Inside, the dining room panelling is said to be from a 200 year old oak, but it has been painted over to lighten the room. Upstairs the library bookcases exhibit some fine wood carving.

In 1908, beside the mansion there was a farm house, barn and shop with various fields totalling 38 acres. In 1929, there was a Department of Agriculture-design-barn with 26 cow stalls, bull pen, calf pen, milk room and silo. By 1944 there were four barns and a total of 45 acres, besides a play house, tank house and garage.

In 1946, Jane married Daniel Chase, and they continued to live here until Mrs. Shattuck died in 1956. The barns were leased for a while to the Meredith Farm on Cross Street, but with the decline of the dairy business in New England, the farm buildings were finally torn down.

In 1957, Warren and Helen Rockwell of Pemberton Road acquired title and have made the house their home to date. The Chase's moved to Cape Cod and after Daniel's death, Jane returned to Boxford.

#65 WENHAM ROAD

A one story house, taxed to Nathaniel Fiske on this property as early as 1768, which in 1798 consisted of 30 acres. "It was remodeled for George W. Dwinell, the owner, in 1882", according to Towne. Dwinell died in 1890.

In 1892 Loring Rust, a native of Topsfield with ancestral roots here, and married to Mary A. C. Towne, was assessed for the property, which included the house, barn, farm buildings and some thirty acres of land. In 1908 he was assessed for a house and four and one-half acres of land, the original having been taken over by his son, Forrest Warren Rust (see #5 Sleepy Hollow). The latter died in 1932, and the house went to a grandson, Warren D..

In 1957 farming as a living was not practical in Topsfield, and the Rusts moved to Maine. Lewis and Lois Noll, from Kansas City, acquired the property and in 1969-70

added a room and half bath at the southeast of the house. They still occupy at this time.

#95 WENHAM ROAD

JHT writes, "This two story house was built in 1793 for Jacob Towne, Jr. It was remodeled in 1859 for Jacob Waldo Towne, by Isaiah M. Small, and in 1882 an addition was built for Dudley P. Towne (1849-1896). Ref. HC Vol. VII, p.87, line 29."

Dudley also owned a house and barn on Central Street.

In 1908 and 1923 the property stood in the name of Mary L. Towne, a sister of Dudley, and in 1928, Waldo A. Towne of Lynn was assessed for it.

In 1937 Mary Manchester bought the property (Bk.3124, p.545) and sold to Ray Hebert in 1948. He and his wife, Mary, still occupy at this writing. He is a Machine Tool distributor. His son, Peter, built a house across the road recently.

From 1953 to 1961 a small cottage on this property was occupied by the Danes, who built the house in which they now live at #83 Wenham Road.

NOTE: Under the present system a house with roof line below the tops of the second floor windows is termed one and a half stories; if the attic has a full size window at the end or dormer windows, it is termed two and a half. Towne did not follow this system.

WEST STREET

Renamed Bare Hill Road, q.v.

WEST COMMON STREET

JHT writes, "The Town Hall, facing the Common, was erected in 1873, at a cost of about \$13,000.00, John H. Potter was the builder. At the right of the Congregational Church and near the present highway, was built in 1795, at

a cost of £30, and also \$65.67, the first school house erected in the centre of the town. In it Jacob Kimball and William R. Hubbard conducted many old-time singing-schools. The building was sold to William G. Lake in 1845, for \$42.75, and now forms the upper part of the Deland house at Hood's Pond. A second school house was built in 1844, by Constantine McKenzie, where the Town Hall now stands. In 1868 it was sold to John Bailey and now forms the second story of the two story addition in the rear of Bailey's Block."

In an addenda Towne writes, "The Town Hall was dedicated December 16, 1874. Dr. George B. Loring of Salem delivered the address on the occasion."

Towne makes no further comments on the building between 1874 and 1902 when he was writing, and I have no information regarding it until I came to town in 1933, but I might comment that the term Meeting House was commonly used to designate the Protestant Churches in New England up until town halls were built for secular affairs.

The auditorium on the upper floor was used for Town Meetings until the growth in the population made it necessary to have larger seating space, and the meetings were moved to the Proctor School. William A. Perkins was Town Clerk (1920-1956), but he always served in his office on South Main Street. Perhaps he filed reports in the Town Hall, but before the days of computers, most information was stored in a human brain and carried around with one.

Phil Godbout was custodian of the Town Hall from 1935 or '36 until 1957, when he took on the Proctor School, and he has helped me remember some of the following: the one piece of fire-fighting equipment was housed in the basement of the hall until the building on School Avenue was built just before World War II; the Public Library was in a room at the rear left corner until 1935, after which the American Legion asked for it, and after some resistance were granted use of it, but had to allow kindergarten classes to use it mornings until the addition to the Proctor School made space available.

The Police Department did not have offices in the hall until the mid-sixties when Roger Peabody was Chief. Before that, one had to call him at his home on Gail Street. The central telephone switchboard and emergency attendant were

established at that time.

If my memory serves correctly, the Assessors did not have a regular office in the hall before World War II, but met in the room where the telephone switchboard is at this time. With inflation it is not fair to say the amount of money spent by any department is a measure of the work done, but it may give some idea. In 1952 the three Assessors together received \$1,150.00 and had clerical help to the tune of \$44.00. In 1982 salaries ran to \$10,593.00 and wages \$7,429.00. The room next to the last on the left, is shared with the Planning Board, but the plan drawers used by both departments are already crowded. The cadastral maps of the Town, prepared by the author of these notes, during the years 1954-56 were kept here and 3x5 cards are filed to show the owner of each lot on the maps. This necessitates up-dating the maps each year and copies of the deeds showing the transfers of property as well as subdivision.

The Town Clerk has always held the front office (on the left) as that is where the office safe is located for Town Records.

The present weathervane atop the tower was made as a present, in 1976, of the Francis N. Carter family to his memory. It replaced the original one which had been missing for a number of years. Mr. Carter served as Commissioner of Trust Funds, 1941-74, Town Accountant, 1942-75, and Town Clerk, 1957-75.

The clock in the tower is no longer operating, but during the 1930's and until he went into service during World War II, Dr. Roger Edwards used to take care of it, when it had mechanical problems.

WILDES STREET

#30 WILDES STREET

JHT writes, "off the road that leads from Boston Street to East Street is a two story house that was built about 1765 for Benjamin Woodbury. In 1771 the property was conveyed to Amos Wildes of Ipswich, and it remained in the Wildes family for nearly one hundred years. In 1811, Amos Wildes,



95 Wenham Road.



30 Wildes Road.

a grandson, built a two story addition to the old house, for his father, Dudley Wildes. In 1883-4 the old part was torn down and a two story ell was built for B. Austin Perkins by James H. Sleeper and son. Asa W. Wildes, lawyer, teacher, and for a long time County Commissioner, who was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1809, owned this place for nearly forty years. His heirs sold the property to B. Austin and Moses B. Perkins, May 10, 1859, since which time the farm has been divided up and has had several different owners."

In 1892, William S. Bell was assessed for a dwelling, barn, wood house and 36 ½ acres in various parcels. At the time Towne was writing, the house stood in the name of Frank Bell; in the Assessor's 1908 valuation, the name is given as Franklin D. Bell. He apparently sold the house before 1923, for after that he was still assessed for land and his address as Wenham.

In 1938 George W. Peters bought the house, moving from the Turnpike, and lived here until 1946, with no modern conveniences, when he sold to Clarence and Margaret Savolinen (Bk.3517, p.38). The Savolienens virtually rebuilt the house, removing the fireplaces and putting in central heating, modern plumbing and bathrooms, adding an ell and aluminum siding throughout. In 1949 they became Topsfield residents and built the New Meadows Golf Course.

At the easterly end of Wildes Street is the site of two houses, (see HC Vol. 8, p.68) which have been gone over 100 years. In 1697 the Town Line was changed to make Edward Neland's (sometimes spelled Kneeland) house in Ipswich. Westerly of the line, the Philip Kneeland house stood. Neither has been replaced.

WILLIAM ROAD

Laid out in 1952; accepted in 1955. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

WINSOR LANE

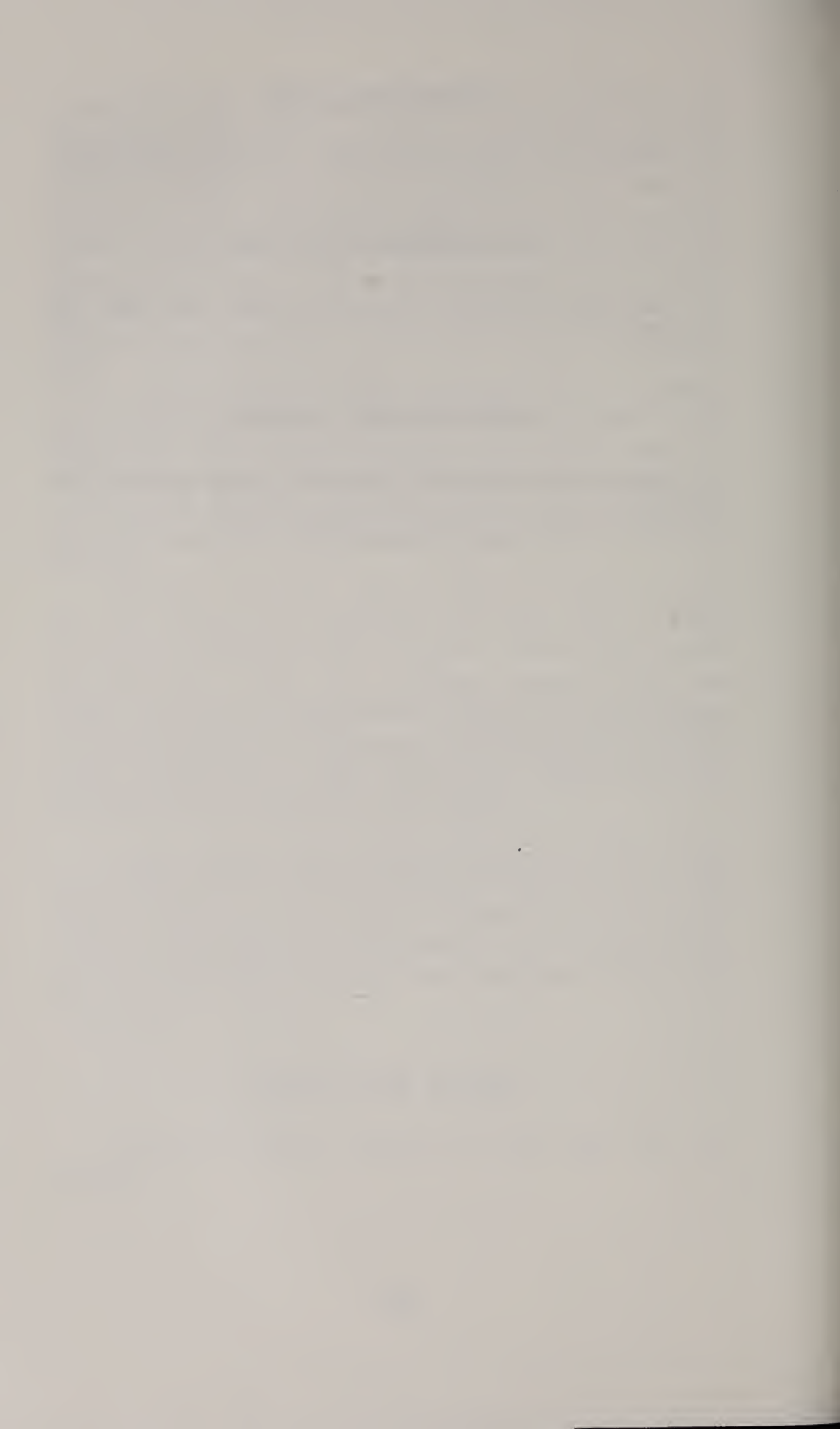
Laid out in sections 1958–1965. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

WOODBRIER ROAD

Laid out in 1955; accepted in 1957. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

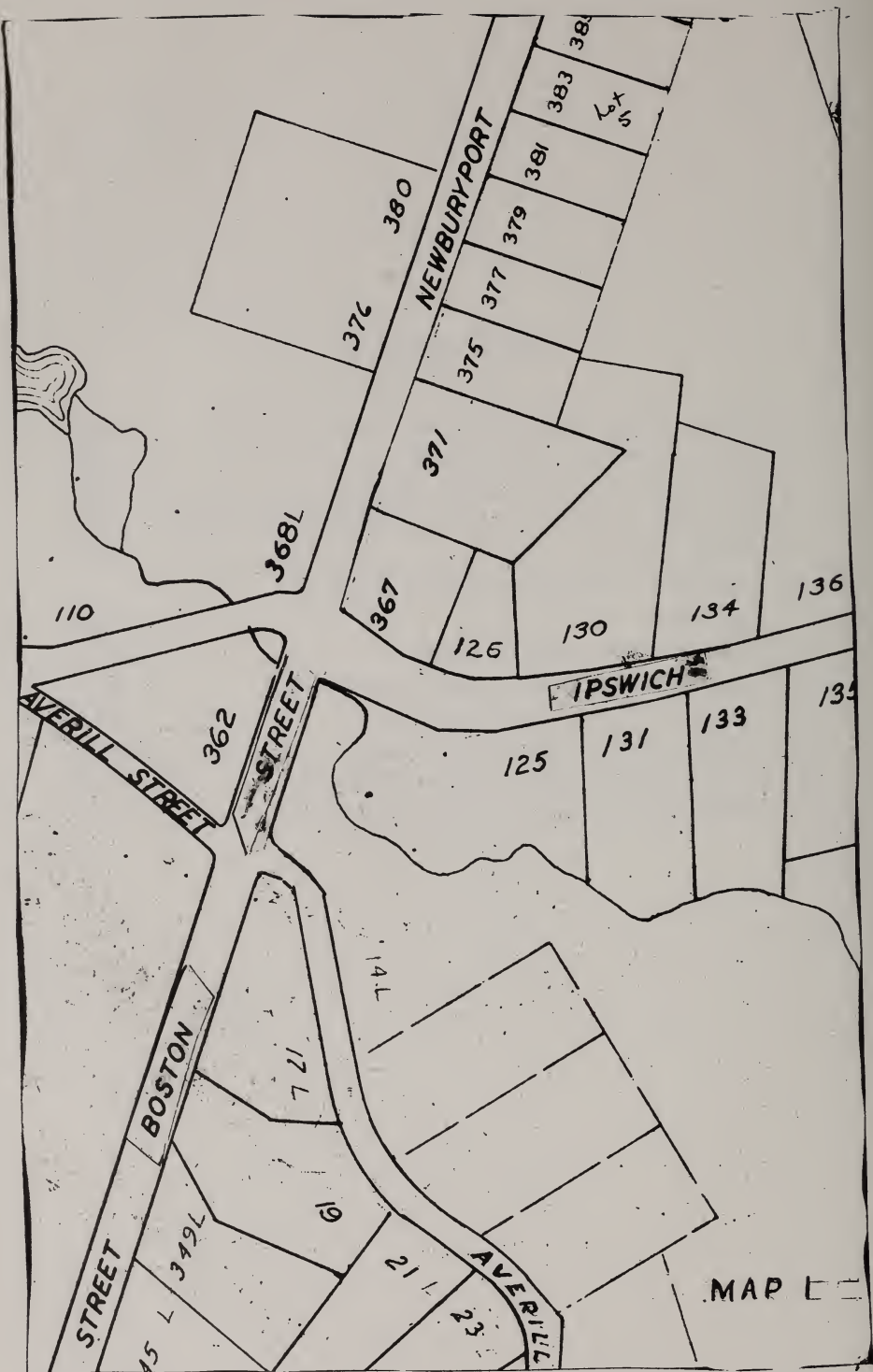
WOODSIDE ROAD

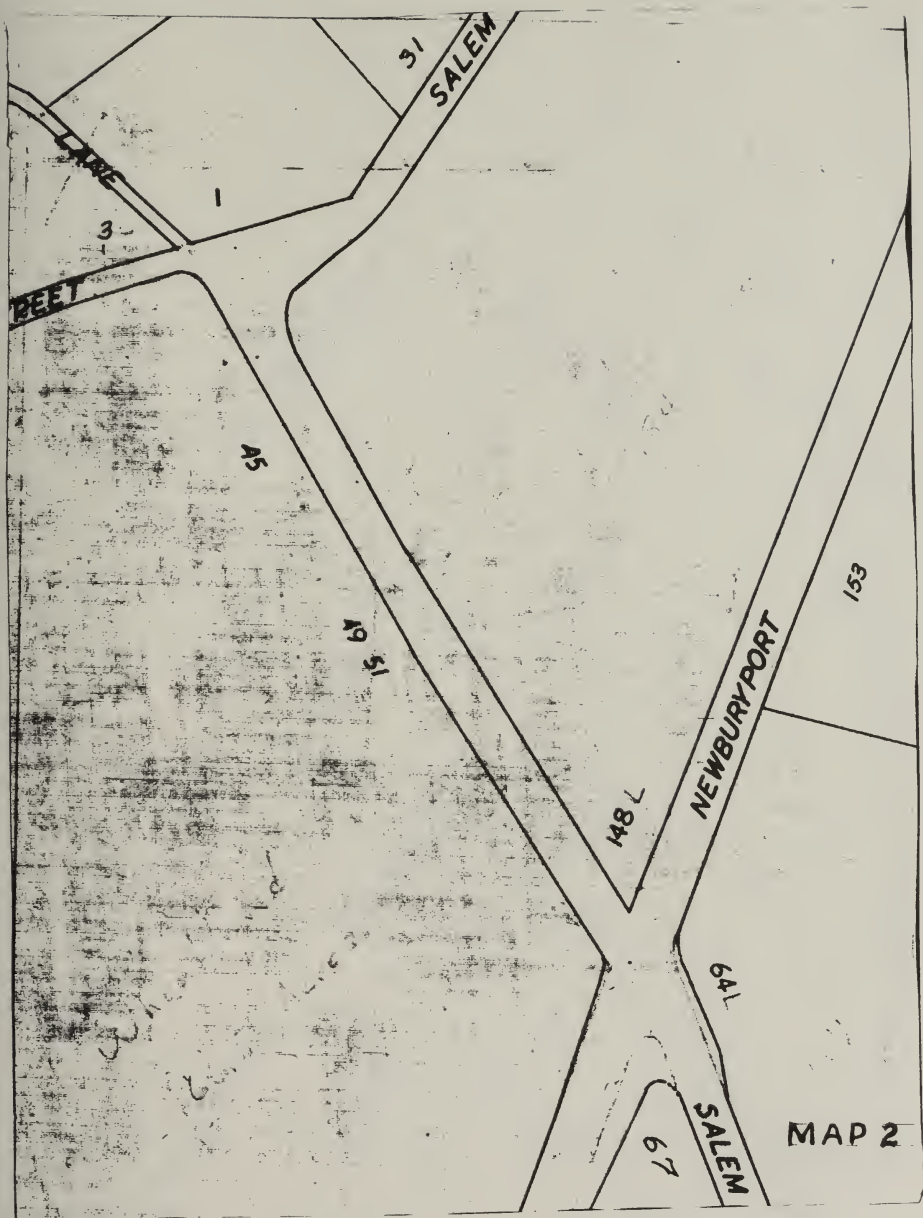
First accepted in 1955; extended in 1962. (See HC Vol. XXXIII)

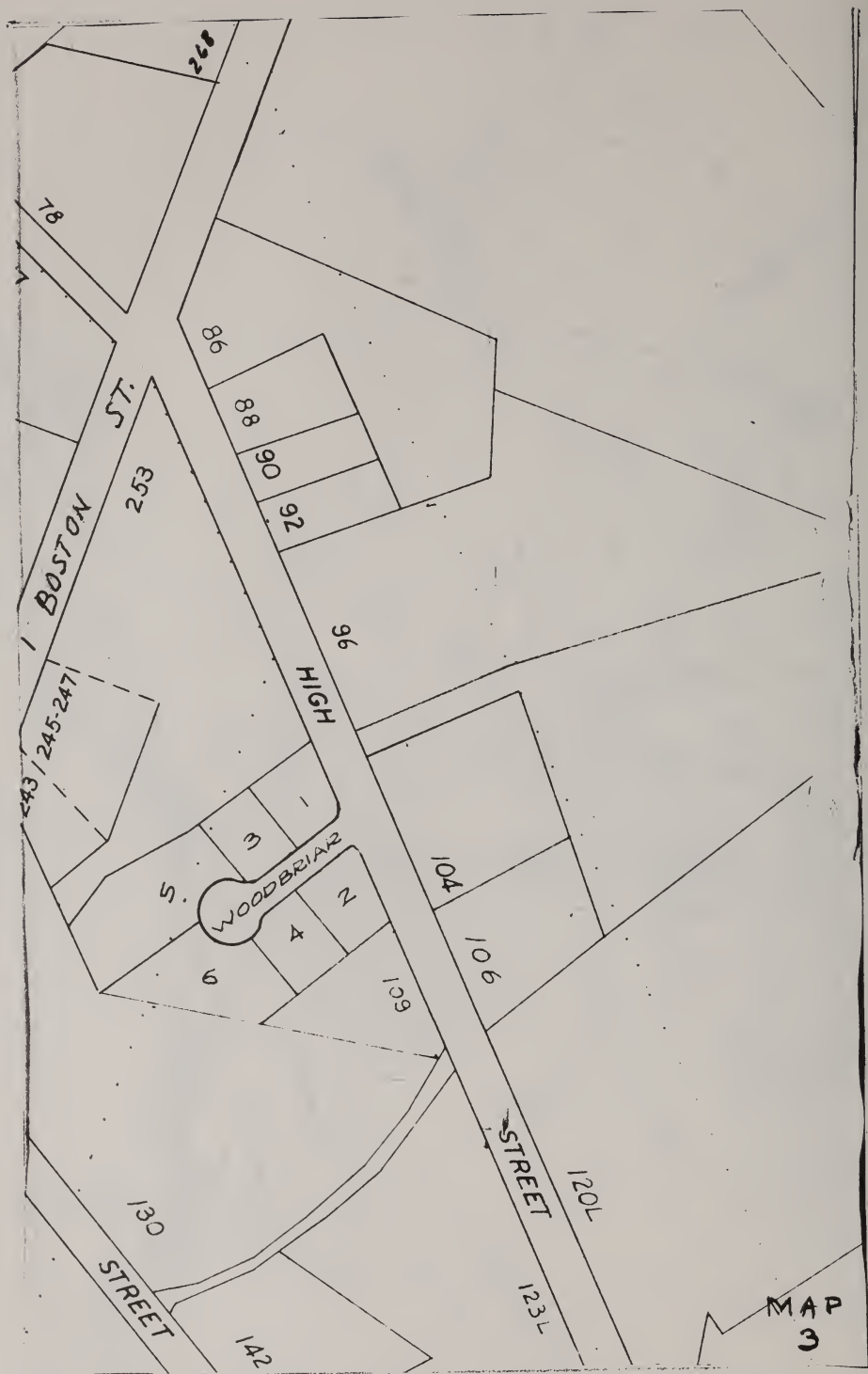


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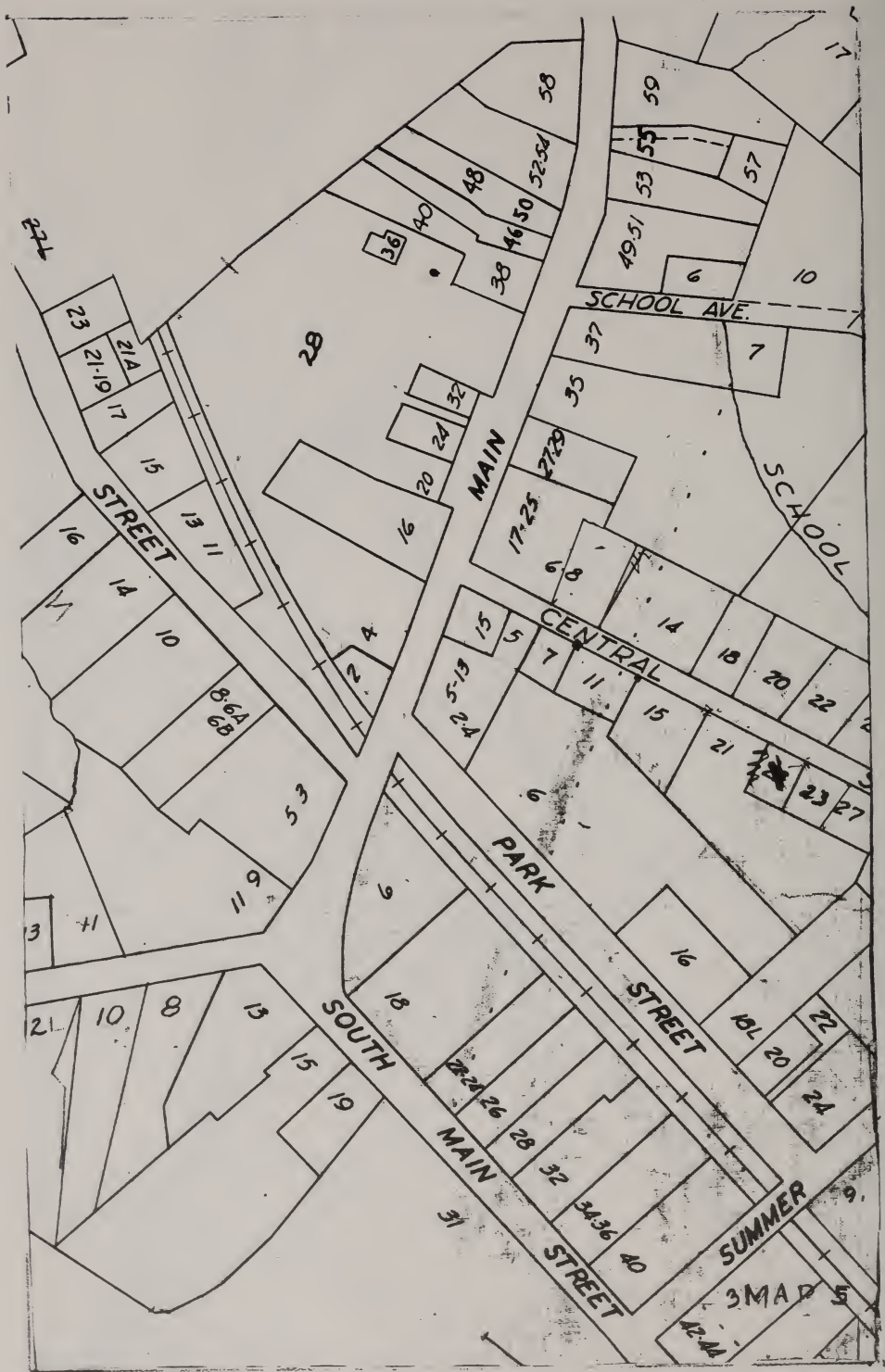
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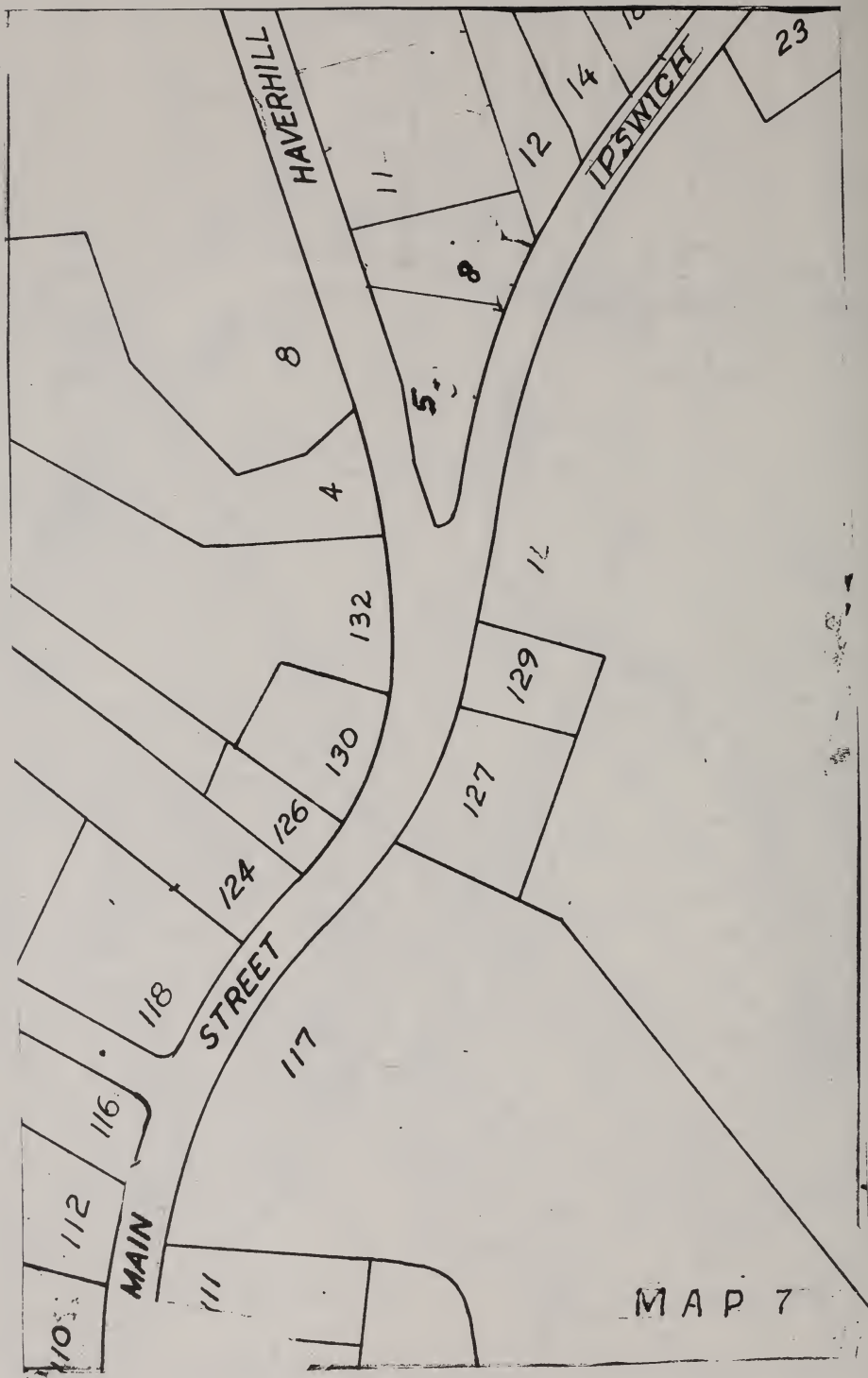






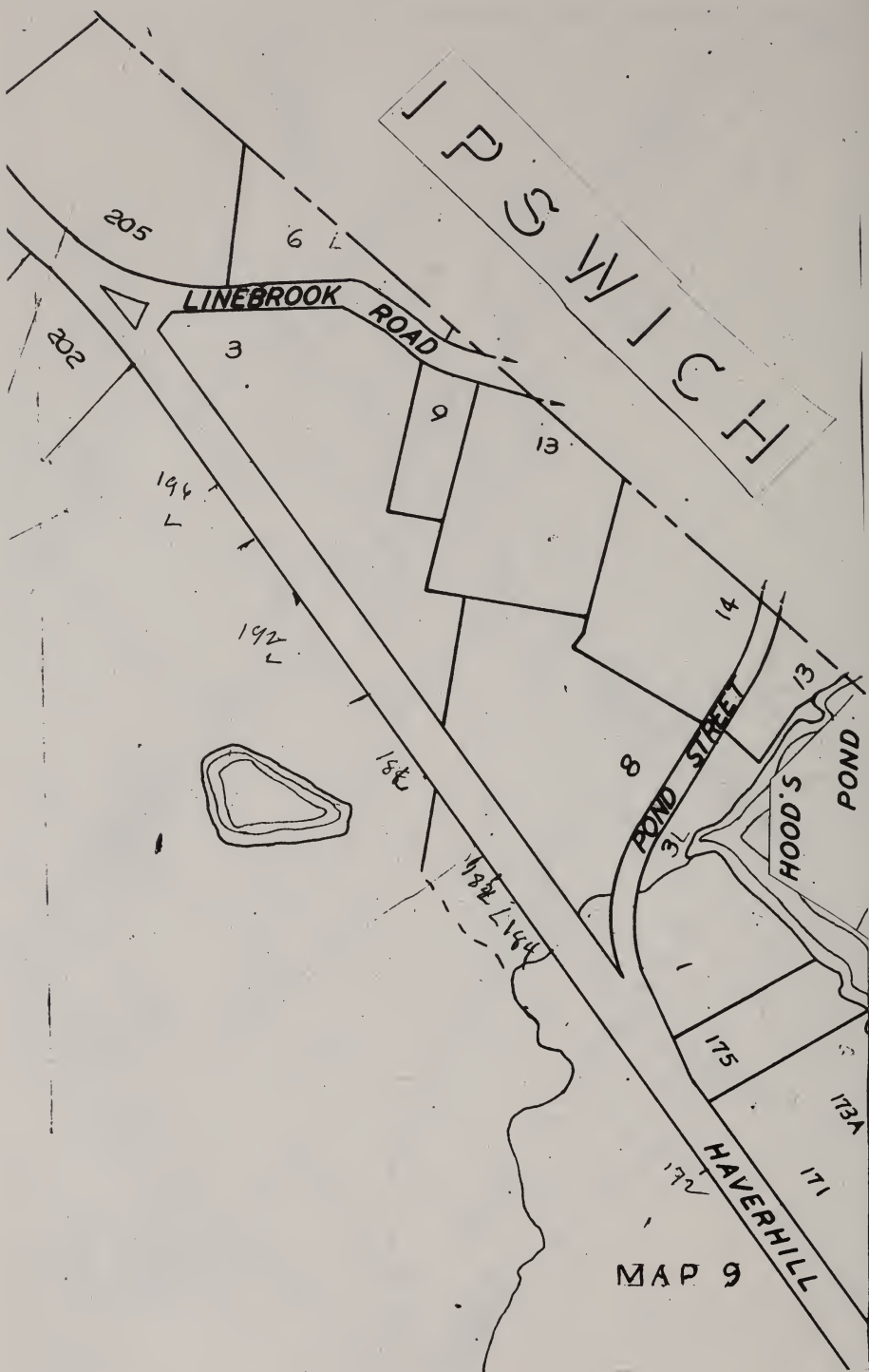


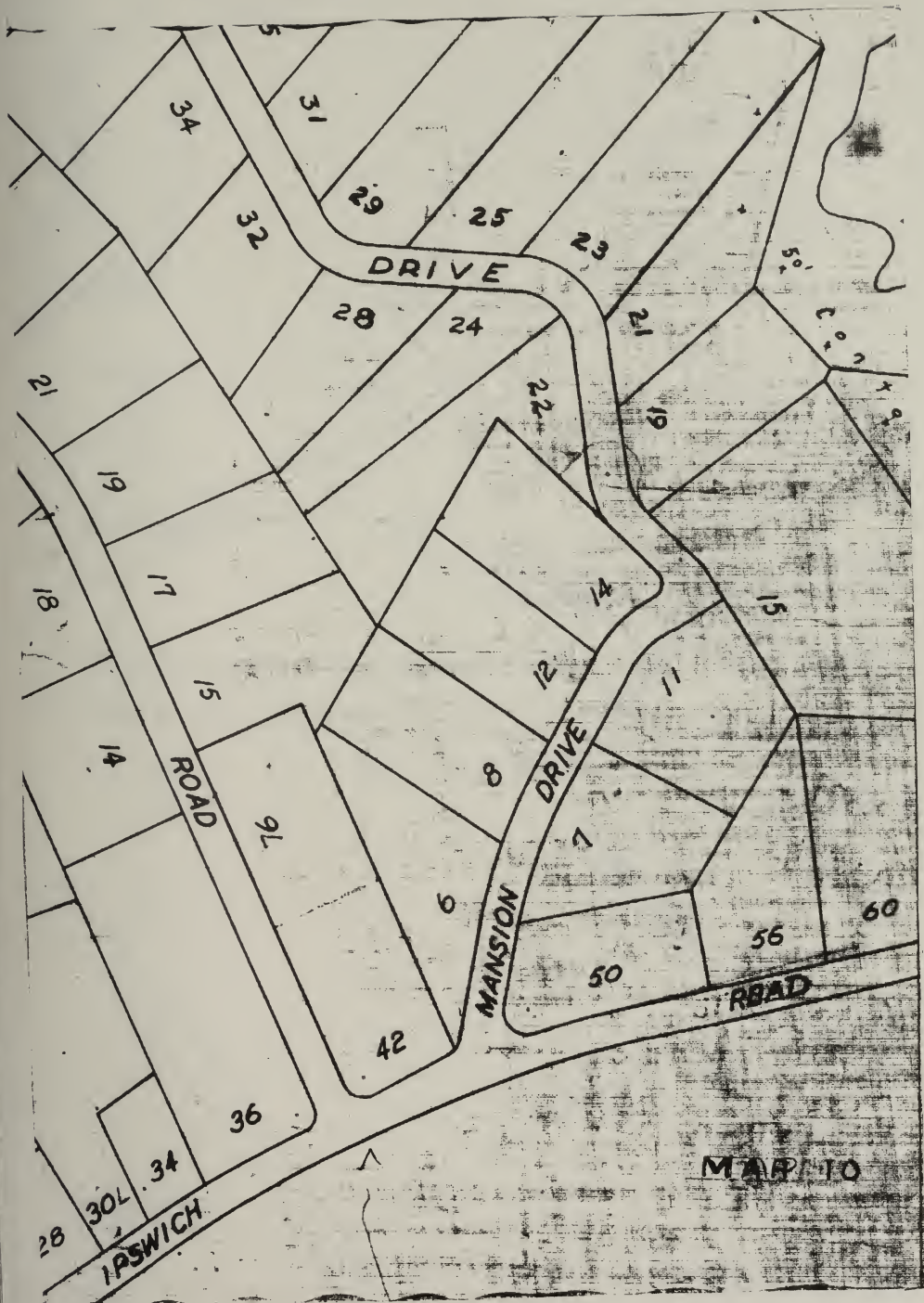




MAP 7











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